

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 FEBRUARY 1983

Israel

Although most Cabinet ministers support the full implementation of the Kahan commission's recommendations, including the defense minister's dismissal, Ari'el Sharon still refuses to resign and Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the 8 February special Cabinet meeting that "he has no intention of firing Sharon," according to Jerusalem television and radio reports. The Cabinet meeting ended without a decision and a further meeting is scheduled for 9 February, IDF and Jerusalem radios noted.

Asserting that Israel must not hand Sharon's head "on a silver platter to the Americans," sources close to the defense minister said the Kahan commission's recommendation that Sharon draw "conclusions" does not imply that he should resign, Jerusalem television reported. Sharon thus told the Cabinet that he "accepts" the commission's recommendations and that the prime minister must now decide. According to Jerusalem radio, Sharon made a personal statement to the Cabinet in which he defended the reputation of the IDF officers criticized by the inquiry commission. The defense minister stressed the same theme in a subsequent speech to the Jabotinsky Order in Tel Aviv, according to excerpts of the speech broadcast by Jerusalem television. IDF radio reported that Sharon may accept the compromise of resigning from the Defense Ministry but remaining in the Cabinet, if the government agrees not to take steps against the IDF officers mentioned in the commission's report.

Meanwhile, the opposition Alignment called on the government to implement the inquiry commission's recommendations in both letter and spirit and to dismiss Sharon from the Cabinet, Jerusalem radio reported.

Reaction to Israeli Commission Report

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat described the results of the Israeli commission investigating the Beirut massacres as "important" but "insufficient" because they do not fully explain Israeli Prime Minister Begin's responsibility, Amman television reported. 'Arafat demanded the formation of an international court to try those responsible for the massacres as war criminals and follow up the commission's results, the television report added. Meanwhile, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine official spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif said the commission's report is "incomplete" because it avoids holding the Israeli Government directly responsible for the massacres, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

In other comment, Cairo radio stated that if the commission holds Israeli officials responsible for the massacres, then Begin's Cabinet must resign immediately if it respects international law or "at the least" Begin should dismiss those involved and form a new Cabinet. The Egyptian paper AL-AHRAM noted that the inquiry is an internal Israeli matter and that the Arabs should take full advantage of the "noose of denunciation" placed around the necks of senior Israeli leaders for their direct or implicit responsibility for the massacres, the radio reported.

A commentary in the Syrian paper TISHRIN, reviewed by Damascus radio, declared that the commission's results provide an opportunity for the Israeli Government to divert attention away from an act of "premeditated aggression against Syria."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi aircraft flew 125 combat missions and destroyed a number of Iranian tanks, armored vehicles, weapons, and ammunition before returning safely to their bases, an

Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed. An Iraqi military spokesman announced that 438 Iranians were killed during 8 February fighting in the Ash-Shib region, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio noted. According to Radio Monte Carlo, Commander of Iraqi Military Operations Major General Hisham Sabah Fakhri estimated 15,000 Iranians dead and expressed his view that heavy fighting will continue for 4 to 5 days. The commander also cited evidence suggesting that the Iranians' main target is the Iraqi city Al-'Amarah, the radio added.

Iranian forces have liberated 300 square km of territory from Iraq and killed or wounded 800 Iraqis since the start of the offensive, according to an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Earlier, Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani reaffirmed that Iran will only renounce its demand for war reparations if an Islamic republic is established in Iraq, IRNA reported.

Iran

Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri confirmed reports that Tudeh Party General Secretary Nureddin Kianuri and many other party leaders and members have been arrested for spying, falsifying documents, and illegal actions, IRNA reported.

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- The subcommittees on withdrawal and Israeli-Lebanese relations met at Khaldah on 8 February and the negotiations are expected to resume at Qiryat Shemona on 10 February, according to a Lebanese Information Ministry dispatch broadcast by Beirut radio. Jerusalem radio subsequently reported that U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib arrived in Israel carrying a U.S. proposal for the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Security -- Although Beirut radio reported that 'Alayh was calm, the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon reported Druze-Christian clashes in villages further south, to the east of Ad-Damur. In the Al-Biq'a valley, the IDF deployed 20 military convoys in forward positions opposite the Syrian lines, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, a British unit of the multinational force arrived in Beirut, according to Beirut radio.

PLO Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat concluded his visit to Jordan and described his talks with Jordanian leaders as cordial, constructive, and positive, Amman television reported. The PLO leader said that the two sides discussed Palestinian and Middle East developments and that he found Jordanian King Husayn "very responsive," the television report noted. Later, 'Arafat arrived in Saudi Arabia, according to Riyadh radio. In another development, the head of the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Amman denied reports that Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary, met with 'Arafat on 7 February and added that Al-Baz left Amman before 'Arafat's arrival, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Egypt-Jordan Relations

Butrus Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, and Usamah al-Baz arrived in Jordan on 8 February and held contacts with Jordanian officials on the Palestinian issue and the Middle East peace process, Cairo radio reported.

PDRY

An Iranian delegation concluded its visit to the PDRY after discussions with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, according to Aden radio and Tehran radio's Arabic service.

DAILY REPORT

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PALESTINIAN REACTION TO ISRAELI COMMISSION REPORTED

'Arafat: Findings Insufficient

JN081856 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Before leaving Amman today, Yasir 'Arafat commented on the results of the Israeli commission investigating the Sabra and Shatila massacres. He demanded the formation of an international court to try those responsible for the massacres as war criminals and to follow up the findings of the Israeli commission. On this issue, our reporter Ibrahim Shahzadah had the following interview with 'Arafat:

[Begin videotape] [Question] No doubt you have heard the ruling of the Israeli commission on the massacres. What are your reactions to this ruling?

[Answer] In fact I have been awaiting such an investigation and such findings, because from the beginning I had proof that this criminal plot and massacre in Sabra and Shatila was premeditated and planned by Begin, Sharon, Shamir, Eytan, Amir Drori, and the commander of the force which besieged Beirut, I think his name is Yaron. All of these are accomplices. They personally supervised [the massacre]. When we examine the proof we have, we become convinced of it. Undoubtedly, I consider the findings important. Despite the seriousness of this ruling, I consider it insufficient because it did not fully explain Begin's responsibility, although it indicated the child-killer Sharon, who did not dare enter Beirut when its defenders were inside. In any case, I consider it an important point. The Israeli court is not enough. I demand the formation of an international court similar to the one established after the Second World War to try Nazi war criminals. This court will follow up the findings reached by this commission. [end videotape]

Al-Wazir Comments

JN081234 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The initial Palestinian reaction voiced a short while ago to the decisions of the Israeli commission of inquiry was reflected by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's statement. He described the commission's findings as important but somewhat inadequate as they contain no firm condemnation of Begin and his Cabinet members.

For his part, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, said that the entire Israeli leadership is responsible because it is the one that made the political decision to perpetrate the massacre in the camps.

Abu Jihad said said that the United States is also responsible because its President gave guarantees to protect the civilians in the Palestinian camps after the evacuation of the Palestinian fighters from Beirut.

PLO London Office

LD081600 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1512 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Excerpts] London, 8 Feb (KUNA) -- The PLO bureau in London said today that it is unlikely that the Israeli inquiry commission's report on the massacres in the Sabra and Shatila camps in West Beirut would lead to a change in the political situation in Israel.

Commenting on the report of the three-member Israeli commission, a spokesman for the bureau informed KUNA that even in the case of a call for an early election, the ruling Likud coalition would win again.

The Palestinian spokesman criticized many aspects of the report, especially in regard to the truth about Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's ignorance of the massacres and in regard to the fact that the committee leveled only softly worded criticism of him, saying only that he took an indifferent stand regarding the events at Sabra and Shatilah and that he did not concern himself with the military operation carried out in West Beirut in the middle of September. He expressed his conviction that it is unlikely Sharon will be forced to resign because of the reputation he enjoys in Israel. The spokesman described the Israeli report as very nice. He said that it did not take into account the horror of what took place in the two Palestinian camps.

PFLP's Abu Sharif

JN081741 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] In Damascus, the PFLP's official spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif has stated: the [Kahan commissions's] report is incomplete in our opinion, because it avoids holding the Israeli Government directly responsible for the massacres and tries to show that it merely negligent when it actually participated directly in and planned for them.

Abu Sharif added that the Israeli army's direct participation was confirmed because on the second day of the massacres it prevented civilians from leaving Sabra and Shatila for West Beirut and forced them to return to the camps to face their horrible fate. He held the U.S. Administration responsible to a greater extent for what happened.

NO MAJOR CHANGES EXPECTED AT PNC SESSION

PM090943 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Feb 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "An-Natshah Says: Amendment of Palestinian National Charter Not Contemplated"]

[Text] Jidda -- PLO representative in Saudi Arabia Rafiq An-Natshah -- Abu Shakir -- has denied that the PNC: may consider amending the Palestinian National Charter, because no group inside the PNC can get enough votes to support amendment.

He said that the PNC meeting scheduled to take place in Algeria in the middle of this month will discuss the PLO's phased political program as well as Arab and international relations. During the meeting, he added, a new 15-member PLO Executive Committee will be elected to succeed the present committee.

He emphasized that Yasir 'Arafat will remain PLO chairman because not a single Palestinian faction is interested in replacing Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] or finding a substitute for him.

He added that the PNC is unlikely to adopt a decision recognizing Israel, because the right to recognize or not to recognize is part of the jurisdiction of a Palestinian government democratically elected in an independent Palestinian state. The PLO, he said, should not be asked to recognize Israel because the PLO is not a state.

On Palestinian-Syrian relations, An-Natshah said that the Palestinians are unanimous in their belief that the strongest relations should be established with Syria, and this trend is sponsored by Fatah. He expressed hope that "the Syrian leadership has the same inclination."

MEDIA REACTION TO KAHAM COMMISSION REPORT

Begin Cabinet's Resignation Urged

NC081617 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] The Kahan commission for the judicial investigation of the massacres in the Sabra and Shatila camps in Lebanon, which claimed more than 1,000 Palestinian civilians as victims, condemns the leaders in Israel and holds them responsible for permitting the Lebanese Phalangist militias to enter these two camps despite the fact that they knew what the Phalangists intended to do.

The commission says that Prime Minister Menahem Begin adopted an indifferent stand and made no move and that Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is primarily responsible for what happened, must tender his resignation immediately. The commission does not demand the dismissal of Israeli Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan, who is also implicated in the massacre, because his term of service in the army is about to end. The commission criticizes Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for failing to adopt the necessary steps to prevent this massacre after having been informed by Economy Minister Mordekhay Tzipori [title and name as heard] of the Phalangists' intention.

The commission holds General Amir Drori, commander in chief of the Israeli forces in Lebanon during the September events in these two afflicted camps, fully responsible. The commission accuses the Israeli intelligence chief of collusion with the Phalangists because he did not adopt any measures to prevent these massacres.

If the Kahan commission holds the Israeli officials responsible for the massacres which were committed in the Sabra and Shatila camps last September, then Begin's Cabinet must resign immediately if it respects international law and norms; or at the least Menahem Begin should exclude all those involved in these massacres from his cabinet and form a new cabinet of persons known for their respect of the law, especially since the negotiations held with the Palestinian leaders regarding their evacuation from Beirut provided for securing the safety of women, children, and the elderly after the departure of the Palestinian fighters from West Beirut. There is evidence of this which Philip Habib mentioned in letters he exchanged with the U.S. State Department.

AL-AHRAM, AL-JUMHURIYAH Comment

NC090910 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM expresses its belief that the Kahan report has exploded a time bomb in front of Menachem Begin's government at a time when this government is facing violent internal campaigns and external crises even with its best friends in Washington. The newspaper says it seems as though the senior Israeli leaders did not expect the noose of denunciation which the commission has put around their necks for their direct or implicit responsibility for the Sabra and Shatila massacres, because they thought last September that they could hide behind the Phalangist militias. They forgot that crime will unequivocally point at those who participate in it and at those who commit it.

AL-AHRAM affirms that this denunciation adds a new black page to Israel's history. It is also an example of what the deviated Israeli policy can lead to at the hand of aggressors and glory-seekers.

AL-AHRAM concludes by noting that whatever the outcome of the Kahan report, be it the continuation of this government or its resignation, this is an Israeli internal matter which is attached to the Israel political conscience at both the popular and official levels. At the Arab level, the Arabs should move to take full advantage of this denunciation.

On the same topic, AL-JUMHURIYAH points out in its editorial that it was no surprise that the investigation drama created by the Kahan commission has ended with the request that the Israeli defense minister be ousted and that Begin and other Israeli Government members resign.

The surprise factor vanishes vis-a-vis the fact which is known by most of world organizations and by the most powerful intelligence departments: The massacre was premeditatedly and deliberately planned against the Palestinians. Therefore, the Israeli defense minister is held fully responsible, a fact which is irrefutable even by the Israeli Kahan commission.

Hence, the fabricated, great shock which shook Menachem Begin's government following the announcement of the results of the commission's investigation was to be expected and a natural result of the security and peace line adopted long ago by this government and which it prefers to the just and comprehensive peace that implies recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Israeli Army Seen Affected

NC091045 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Feb 83

[News analysis by Anwar Zahir]

[Text] Observers think that the Kahan commission's recommendations, namely, ousting or resignation of Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and ousting of the Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan and the chief of military intelligence, General Sagi, together with other senior officers, if out into effect, would be a great blow to the Israeli military command. It would also be unprecedented in the history of the Israeli army.

Implementation of the Kahan commission's recommendations which are unequivocal regarding Sharon, Eytan, and Sagi, will require changes in a short time in the top Israeli military command at a time when the military situation in the northern part of the country is very tense.

This is the first time in Israel's history that the government has been forced to change more than one military official at the same time. It is the second time that an inquiry commission appointed by the government has issued a recommendation to oust the chief of military intelligence. In 1974, the Agranat commission, which was appointed by Golda Me'ir's government to investigate military shortcomings during the first days of the October war in 1973, recommended the ousting of the chief of the military intelligence at that time, General Eli Za'ir.

Observers expect that a total revision in the techniques of Israeli military intelligence will take place as a result of the accusations which have been raised twice in less than 10 years against this important organization affiliated with the chief of staff command.

IV ARMY COMMANDER ON PROGRESS OF GULF WAR

JN090845 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] (Al-Bazarkan), Maysan sector -- Iraq, 9 Feb (INA) -- Staff Major General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, commander of the Iraqi IV Army Corps, has said that yesterday his forces repulsed a new Iranian offensive and inflicted large losses on the enemy forces. He added that his forces are still controlling the area and the situation and that all the Iranian forces' attempts to cross the Iraqi borders will be foiled and destroyed.

In a statement carried by WAKH today, to a group of Arab and foreign correspondents last night, in an area 18 km from the border inside Iraqi territory, he said that the enemy did not manage to occupy an inch of Iraqi territory during its three offensives and that all areas are under the Iraqi forces' control.

He refuted Tehran claims on the occupation of the main road between (Al-Fakkah) and Ash-Shib and said: This road is still in the hands of our forces. I was there personally before I met with you. He added that the front from which the Iranians attacked is 30-km wide and that Iran amassed about six divisions, in addition to volunteers and Khomeyni guards.

Staff Maj Gen Hisham al-Fakhri expected the Iranian forces to continue their desperate attacks motivated by the blind grudge that dominates the Tehran rulers' mentality against Iraq, the Arab Gulf and the Arab nation.

In the course of his replies to the Arab and foreign correspondents' questions, he said that the day before yesterday a small group of the Iranian forces managed to penetrate our borders to a depth of 200 meters. However, he added, these forces were captured and are now in detention camps. He pointed out that most of those who were captured by the Iraqi forces were children not more than 15 years old. Those children, he added, said upon interrogation that they were brought to the front directly from their schools or after taking a military course of not more than 10 days. He indicated that Iran's losses in its recent attacks amounted to about 15,000 dead, adding that the figures made public are only those of the bodies counted so far.

The commander of the IV Army Corps said that the Iranian offensive aims at occupying the city of Al-'Amarah. He added that a color map was discovered in the possession of a prisoner of war showing Iran's expansionist ambitions against Iraq and the Arab lands and in harmony with the Tehran political leaders' aggressive statements against Iraq and the Arabs as well as against the world.

He affirmed that the Iranians are receiving technical aid from the Syrian and Libyan regimes and that an airlift currently links Tripoli with Tehran to secure Iran's military equipment requirements. He added that at present, Libya is purchasing the Iranian forces' weaponry requirements and spare parts from various parts of the world. He stressed that all this aid will not enable the Iranian forces to achieve any victory because the Iranian soldiers are fighting without aim and without conviction. He added that regardless of the amount of weapons received, they cannot achieve anything without adequate training being given to those using them.

The commander revealed that his forces captured 50 Iranian soldiers in a forward position. He asked the correspondents to meet with them and take pictures of them, particularly the young Iranian POW's.

COMMUNIQUE NO 992: MAYSAN ATTACKS CONTINUE

JN081759 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1707 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Communique No 992 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 8 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The sons of great Iraq and their valiant armed forces, who are currently celebrating the 20th anniversary of the immortal February revolution and the 13th anniversary of the establishment of the brave popular army, are continuing their admirable victories over the enemy forces, crushing their misled adventures and affirming the Iraqi forces' ability to inflict heavy losses on the rapacious invaders and to turn the battleground into a large graveyard for their bodies and a big dump for their arms and equipment. Our forces will continue to fight the enemy forces until the racist rulers in Qom and Tehran accept a just peace, heed the demands of the Iranian peoples whom they oppress, and renounce their plots and evil designs.

The results of the operations are as follows:

1. As a result of its abject failure and bitter defeat in battles during the past 2 days in the Ash-Shib area, where the enemy desperately attempted to penetrate our international borders in the Maysan sector, and as a result of the heavy losses sustained by its forces during these heroic battles, the enemy attempted last night and today to send groups of its soldiers to attack part of our forward units in the same sector. Our units confronted the enemy groups with rare heroism and clashed with their remnants in fierce battles today. Our units were able to destroy the major part of the attacking enemy forces. Only those who fled the battlefield and those who saved themselves from a certain death at the hands of our forces by surrendering to our units remained alive.

The enemy lost heavily in men and equipment; dozens of enemy soldiers were captured and evacuated to our rear lines. A number of enemy tanks, vehicles, and weapons were destroyed. Details of enemy losses will be released later.

2. Our daring air force planes today continued their powerful raids on enemy units and personnel assembly points in the Maysan sector and against its concentrations deep inside enemy territory in the southern sector of the front, scoring accurate and very effective hits and destroying a number of enemy tanks, armored vehicles and personnel assembly points, and a large quantity of enemy weapons and equipment. All our fighter planes returned safely to base after carrying out 125 combat missions today.

3. Our army helicopters today raided enemy units, positions, and personnel movements in the Maysan sector, scoring very effective hits. The enemy suffered heavy losses. Monitored enemy losses were 4 tanks; armored personnel carriers; 13 excavators; 11 vehicles; one of which was carrying troops; 1 observation post; several infantry positions; and several emplacements for weapons. All our helicopters returned safely to base after carrying out 42 combat missions today.

4. The artillery of the Khomeynite clique, which is indulging in aggression and evil, today shelled Basra, Mandali, and their suburbs. The barbaric shelling caused damage to civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 February 1983

Further Iranian Losses

JN090717 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0705 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] A military spokesman has made the following statement: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Subsequent to the Armed Forces General Command's Communique No 992, issued yesterday, 8 February 1983, the known losses sustained by the enemy forces in yesterday's battles in the Ash-Shib area in the Maysan operational sector, amounted to 438 killed, large numbers wounded, and scores of POW's who have been evacuated to the rear lines of the said sector. Numerous tanks, personnel carriers, artillery pieces, vehicles, excavators, and large quantities of various equipment were also destroyed.

Hundreds of rocket launchers, machineguns, rifles, and various weapons and equipment were also captured. All are serviceable.

9 February 1983

BAGHDAD PROMISES TO 'CRUSH' IRANIAN AGGRESSION

NC090948 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Oh brave Iranian officers, NCO's, and enlisted men, Oh misled revolution guards of the impostor Khomeyni: This is the aftermath of aggression. As stated by our leader Mr Saddam Husayn yesterday, we are aware of the details of Iran's attacks, and we shall crush them. The attack with which Hashemi-Rafsanjani -- this Zionist hireling -- threatened us has now been crushed, and all the aggressing forces have been destroyed. In the future, too, all the forces they send will be decimated. However, hundreds of your comrades-in-arm who have surrendered to the Iraqi forces have been transferred to 'Amarah, where they have been given food and means for a comfortable life. Therefore, oh brave military personnel of Iran: Do as your comrades did and join the Iraqi armed forces in order to save yourselves from the clutches of destruction. Your children, spouses, and mothers are waiting for you. Yes, join our forces with the knowledge that the person who insists on the principle of aggression will not be saved.

BRIEFS

ECWA BUILDING OPENING -- Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA) -- Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, opened here today the building of the permanent headquarters of the Economic Commission for Western Asia [ECWA]. The building cost 11 million dinars, donated by Iraq. [Excerpt] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Feb 83 JN]

PRIME MINISTER, 'ARAFAT MEET 8 FEBRUARY

JN081436 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Amman, 8 Feb (PETRA) -- Prime Minister Mudar Badran at noon today received in his office PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The discussed future relations between Jordan and the PLO as well as developments in the Palestinian cause in light of the Arab and international state of affairs.

'Arafat Makes Statement, Departs

JN081827 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has voiced satisfaction with the talks he held with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials, describing them as cordial, constructive, and positive. 'Arafat also expressed confidence that the future of the Palestinian cause will hold good. This came in a predeparture statement he made this evening at the end of a 2-day visit to Jordan. Our correspondent Dawud 'Umar Dawud met with Mr 'Arafat who talked about the outcome of this visit.

[Begin videotape] [Question] Brother Abu 'Ammar, [Yasir 'Arafat] can you brief us on the talks you held with his majesty the king and Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the topics you discussed?

[Answer] Actually, I can say with satisfaction that the talks were positive, satisfactory, and constructive. We discussed all the common issues in detail, issues concerning our people inside our occupied land and the current developments in the Arab region, including the meetings of the Arab seven-member committee and the results they have achieved and the committee's future action. I can confidently say that, as usual, I found his majesty the king very responsive. My talks with him were frank, cordial, and positive. In the morning, I resumed my talks with the brother prime minister. My talks with him were also fraternal, positive, and constructive. [end videotape]

Abu 'Ammar was seen off at Amman airport by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied territories affairs, and several Palestinian officials.

Departing with Abu 'Ammar was Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

AR-RA'Y HIGHLIGHTS JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN TALKS

JN081216 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The New Round and the Time Factor," the newspaper AR-RA'Y says: The new round of Jordanian-Palestinian talks is highly important since they reflect the need to gain time and accelerate the crystalization of future relations between the two peoples so that their joint action will forge ahead and save the land and kinfolk across the river. It is no secret that the salvation process together with the time factor are essential, especially since the Israeli settlement plan is in full swing and escalating to create a new reality and to make peace efforts irrelevant. Needless to say, time is the principal card on which Israel is wagering. Proceeding from this principle, there is no alternative for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian action.

Naturally, our kinfolk across the river and the sons of all the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples are pinning their hopes on this round of talks, motivated by a strong desire and realizing that the crystallization of future relations between them will achieve big steps forward and at the same time contribute to drawing up the required bases for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian action.

AR-RA'Y adds: What supports these hopes is the statement made by Yasir 'Arafat yesterday in which he reaffirmed the special nature of the relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and the renewed determination to contribute to strengthening it with all means. The new round of Jordanian-Palestinian talks should stress determination to win the battle for time and to contribute to realizing the aspirations of our kinfolk in the occupied territory as well as of all the Jordanian and Palestinian people.

AR-RA'Y concludes: We say confidently that the Jordanian-Palestinian march will continue because it has emerged from the two people's will. Both peoples have lived closely and ceaselessly with the problem, have shared the burdens and sacrifices, and are determined to build real peace on clear basis represented by the restoration of the usurped rights.

AL-LIWA' ON FIRM COMMITMENT TO ARAB INTERESTS

JN090924 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing on Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the weekly AL-LIWA' says: Jordan's concern about and continuous emphasis on the special Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and the need to exploit the time factor to foil Zionist plans to swallow up the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has not been and will not be at the expense of the pan-Arab interests. Furthermore, Jordan's support for the peace efforts does not mean a retreat from its pan-Arab commitment to the Palestine question and the rights of the Palestinian people.

Jordan is with the Palestine question, the Palestinian people, and the Arabs within the limits of the general interest and the earnest and sincere efforts required by the current phase to effectively and practically confront Zionist enemy plans. This firm and clear Jordanian stand does not at all mean the relinquishment of any inch of soil or the concession of any Arab right under any pressure and regardless of the heavy costs and sacrifices.

PAPERS ASSESS KAHAN COMMISSION REPORT

JN090956 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] The judicial Kahan commission in Israel yesterday published its report on the results of its investigation into the Sabra and Shatila massacres. The information which is contained in the report has shaken Israel and world public opinion and revealed the mentality of hatred, bigotry, and fanaticism governing Israel. The Sabra and Shatila crime is only a drop in the sea of crimes which have been committed by Begin and Sharon against the Palestinians and the Lebanese in Lebanon. During its invasion of Lebanon and shelling of Beirut, Israel used the most up-to-date methods reached by the science of war, destruction, and killing in the world. Therefore, all world leaders, who believe in peoples' right to life, are called upon to condemn Israel's hideous crimes and not to remain indifferent, claiming that this is an internal issue concerning Israel alone. Today's editorials devote their comments the Kahan report.

Under the headline "The Kahan Commission Report and the Responsibility of the International Community," AD-DUSTUR says: A few days ago, the whole world commemorated the 50th anniversary of the rise of Hitlerite Nazism and its assumption of power in Germany. On this anniversary, the world recalled the chain of tragedies and tortures which Hitlerite Nazism sparked off, turning Europe into arenas of death and destruction.

Yesterday, the Kahan commission report on the results of its investigation into the Sabra and Shatila massacres came as new and categorical proof that the mentality of bigotry, fanaticism, and hatred governing Israel is no less worse and dangerous to the world than that which governed Germany in the early 30's and cost mankind millions of victims and innumerable material losses and horrifying psychological damage.

The Kahan commission report has placed before the world the facts which Zionism has tried to conceal; namely, the real role which Israel is playing in the region and the real intentions and beliefs which govern Israel's practices. Israel is not the oasis which is surrounded by the Arab desert or the light which is surrounded by darkness. The Kahan report has not only shown, but also confirmed, that Israel is the fortress which uses its superiority for destruction and death and directs its army at all acts of annihilation. Therefore, Israel's claim about its concern and desire for peace is disproved by evidence which extends from Dayr Yasin to Sabra and Shatila, and from Qibyah to Bahr al-Baqar.

The responsibility of the world, with all its forces and inclinations, is not to leave Israel to be the antagonist and the judge in the massacres, crimes, and acts of annihilation and destruction it has committed. This is not an internal issue concerning Israel alone as some people imagine. The world is called upon to assume its responsibilities toward the rights of peoples and mankind with courage and sincerity.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: It is hoped that the Kahan commission report will be the bill of indictment which must be submitted to an international court. What is important is not for Israel to punish Sharon, Shamir, Eytan or anyone else, but for Israel itself to be punished for producing such condemned leaders. The world which is still hunting down the Nazis everywhere and considering Nazism as the most serious charge against anyone, is urgently called upon to exert all its effort to prevent the entrenchment of neo-Nazism which could lead the world to destruction, tragedies, and ruination once again.

Under the headline "The Crime and the Conviction," SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: When the massive crime at Sabra and Shatila shook the whole world conscience and caused angry reactions in the Israeli street, the Menahem Begin government was compelled to accept the decision of the high court of justice to form a judicial commission to investigate the responsibility for the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

That decision was an obvious attempt to calm down world indignation and resentment and to praise the democracy of the State of Israel, whose leaders, mentality, and system have pursued the method of massive crimes against the Palestinian people in particular and the Arab people in general, since the emergence of the Zionist movement and the establishment of the Zionist state on Arab territory.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: If the false democracy in Israel is looking for a way to cover the exposure of the state, which is run by masters in the world of crime and terrorism, part of the responsibility for the crime falls on those who left the flank of the Arab nation exposed in Lebanon and elsewhere and who tamper with Arab politics and indulge in small sideshows and empty slogans. As these people are shown to be of less importance by the rest of reality, their evil against their nation increases to the point where they become as dangerous as Israel, which considers these people as the best helpers in weakening the Arab nation and exhausting its resources through conflicts and divisions.

Under the headline "Cosmetic Surgery for the Ugly Face," AR-RA'Y says: In view of the fact that the crime of the age which Israel perpetrated in Sabra and Shatila has horrified the world and disfigured the civilized face with which Israel has deceived the international community for the past 3 decades, this face had to have cosmetic surgery to hide the ugly scars which have been revealed before the millions of mankind -- hence the Kahan commission, which was formed to perform this cosmetic surgery, and its report which was published yesterday.

In light of this fact and the contents of the report, the following results can be deduced:

1. The peace efforts in the region are tackled by criminals who were condemned by an Israeli judicial report.
2. The U.S. Administration now has a real opportunity to rid itself of the pressure which is put by these criminals to obstruct and foil the peace process. This administration no longer has an excuse to avoid direct dialogue with the PLO now that the Israeli report has made it clear that the Israeli leadership is the nest of terrorism in the region.
3. The European Community is now in a better position than before to assess the real dangers to the region and the European interests in it posed by Israel's savage resistance to peace. Perhaps, the European Community will not forget that the head of Israeli diplomacy Shamir, who is now in Europe, is involved in and condemned on the massacre of the age. What the community has heard from him reflects Israel's chauvinist mentality. Therefore, the facts which have been revealed before the European Community should impel it to play a more powerful and positive role in backing the peace efforts and removing the Israeli obstacles threatening these efforts.
4. Perhaps the African states and especially Zaire, in which Sharon has planned to go on a rampage, will realize he is the ugliest pimple on the Israeli face. As a matter of fact, the Kahan commission has recommended his removal. Perhaps Zaire would like to reconsider its agreements which it signed with Sharon, who is condemned in the crime of the age.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The blood of the Sabra and Shatila victims, including children, women, and old people, will continue to haunt the murderers and those who were involved with them through planning and assistance. Any attempt to beautify Israel's ugly face will be useless.

MEDIA REPORTAGE ON KAHAN COMMISSION FINDINGS

AN-NAHAR: Report Affects Negotiations

NC091101 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the title "Sharon's Battle Ended in Favor of Lebanon's Peace," Michel Abuy Jawdah writes in AN-NAHAR: A few hours before Ambassador Habib arrived in the area and a few hours after President Reagan said that Israel is delaying the withdrawals, a storm broke out in Israel. Such a storm was expected. It can be said that the publication of the Kahan commission's report came actually at a delicate moment. The Lebanese-Israeli negotiations have entered a critical phase. Ambassador Habib's mission has also reached a decisive test. President Reagan's initiative is trying to avoid failure in Lebanon, which will be the first test of the initiative.

The commission's findings put the Israeli prime minister in a difficult position: either accept the resignation of his defense minister or his dismissal or turn to the voters for early elections, the holding of which do not have the approval of the Likud bloc's allies.

He adds: There is no doubt that the one most affected is Defense Minister Sharon, who attempted to return from the war with a peace victory after his military victory and who succeeded in ousting the PLO from Beirut. However, his ambition to establish a peace triangle of Egypt, Israel, and Lebanon soon became impossible. His persistence in achieving Israeli political victories separately from the U.S. mediator caused a crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations, making it appear as the obstacle in the way of Lebanese-Israeli negotiations success because it is the obstacle in the way of Habib's mission.

Abu Jawdah adds: However, the most important thing that remains is to what extent it can benefit from the present storm in Israel and what is Habib's ability to make the Israeli stance flexible. This is what concerns Lebanon about what takes place in Israel.

Pending this, President al-Jumayyil can achieve four objectives behind the weakening of Sharon's wing. He can polarize all effective forces, strengthen the position and argument of the Lebanese negotiator, accelerate the negotiations, and contain certain aspects. Hence, Lebanon can say: The war of Sharon is over, and we will not yield to Sharon's peace, but with the support of the United States, it will be possible to achieve peace on the basis of the Lebanese visualization.

AL-ANWAR on Report, Developments

NC091132 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the title "Kahan's Report and Habib's Ideas," Rafiq Khuri writes in AL-ANWAR: Making predictions in the Middle East is a losing proposition. However, all events now appear to raise speculation, predictions, or questions. What will happen in Israel after the earthquake caused by the Kahan commission's report on the Sabra and Shatila camps massacres? What is the resolution to be adopted by the PNC? What will King Husayn say in March? What does President Reagan intend to do? How is the Gulf war developing? Where are the negotiations among Lebanon, Israel, and the United States heading?

He adds: All the parties are trying to arrange their positions on the premise that the end of the string is presently in Israel. The Kahan report, which Menahem Begin regards as the beginning of a political massacre, is viewed by President Reagan as a gun clearing the way for Habib's ideas and plan regarding the withdrawal from Lebanon and a settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He says: The early signs of a war which are appearing in the Israeli and Syrian military concentrations in Al-Biqa', in the talk about the installation of SAM-5's in Syria and then in Lebanon and reports about Soviet experts manning them, are a matter of greater importance than the struggle for power and the risk of staying in power. This involves regional and international circumstances, the least of which is the development of the Gulf war. Moreover, the big powers are present militarily in the field. Ships of the 6th Fleet near Beirut are carrying 12,000 Marines in addition to those who landed as part of the multinational force. The reports about the Soviet experts in Syria go to the extent of saying there are eight divisions of Russian marines in the Black Sea bases ready to sail to the Middle East and to intervene militarily when Moscow thinks that Israel is threatening Damascus.

Rafiq Khuri concludes by saying: The eventualities and small outlets remain possible, but these will not change the basic matters. It is no secret that President Reagan prefers the downfall of General Sharon, after the downfall of General Haig, and the opening of the way for a government in which Begin's stances will be changed. Habib will return to the United States at the appropriate time, but the wagering in the Middle East on predictions will remain a sort of Russian roulette.

Radio on Report, Negotiations

NC090834 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] The next 24 hours will be decisive for Lebanon and the area. Philip Habib has returned to the Middle East and today he will start his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in an unusual atmosphere and on unusual issues. This time Begin will meet the U.S. presidential envoy amidst a political storm against his government as a result of the Kahan commission's report on the events that took place in the Sabra and Shatila camps. According to diplomatic and press reports, Philip Habib is coming this time to the area carrying a plan for the withdrawal of all forces from Lebanon. Therefore, the situation is different this time. Begin is incapable of a political confrontation and of swimming against the current of U.S. policy as he had wished, and the U.S. Administration cannot wait for long. The domestic situation will not allow President Reagan to risk waiting, because the U.S. presidential elections will catch up with him. The situation in Lebanon and in the area cannot tolerate procrastination and stalling. It is clear that peace in Lebanon is the gateway to peace in the area. The liberation of Lebanon from the present occupations will save all the required settlements of the Middle East crisis. Moreover, the success of U.S. efforts in Lebanon will lead the way to moves in other Arab capitals.

Therefore, Habib will today start his talks with Begin in an atmosphere more likely to bring progress in the negotiations than retreat or regression.

The government leaders will today resume their contacts preparatory to the talks which will be held with Habib, who is expected to arrive in Beirut tonight or tomorrow morning.

President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil will hold several meetings with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, and with the political operations room to draw up the agenda of talks with the U.S. presidential envoy.

The 13th round of negotiations was held in Khaldah yesterday, but no joint statement was issued. The Israeli side was confused and embarrassed, while the subcommittees continued their meetings, which an official source described as a continuation of the committees' routine work.

The official source outlined that this round of negotiations was dominated by two factors: 1) The obvious impact on the Israeli delegation of the Kahan commission's report, which held Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon responsible for the massacre in the Sabra and Shatila camps. This led the committees to cut short their work. The Israeli delegation was in a hurry to return to Israel. 2) The content of President Ronald Reagan's statement concerning the Lebanese crisis, holding Israel responsible for delaying the withdrawals.

The source affirmed that President Reagan's statement has aroused the feeling and hope of the possibility of pushing the negotiations and of speeding up the achievement of withdrawals.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSES ARMY DEPLOYMENT

NC081329 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] In B'abda Palace today President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting of the international liaison committee's higher political committee in the presence of the U.S., British, French, and Italian ambassadors and the team of Lebanese and international officers.

The discussions during the meeting dealt with the security situation in general, especially in the areas of 'Alayh and Ash-Shuf, and the practical preparations for the Lebanese Army's entry into these two areas with the support of the multinational forces in the event the efforts that are being made in this connection succeed.

We point out at this juncture that Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim last night contacted the head of the U.S. delegation, Morris Draper, and informed him on authorization from the president that the Lebanese Government is prepared to give orders to the army to enter the area of 'Alayh this morning or at 1400 today. Draper informed Minister Salim at noon today that he has not yet received a reply from Israel.

ARMY CHIEF TARABAY, OTHERS TENDER RESIGNATIONS

NC090738 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] The deadline given to the army officers wanting to resign expired last night in accordance with legislative Decree No. 1 regarding the rebuilding of the Army. One hundred forty-six officers have submitted their resignations. They include many high-ranking officers, the most prominent of whom is former Army Commander General Victor Khuri; president Army Chief of Staff, staff Major General Munir Tarabay; Beirut garrison commander Major General Mukhtar Mazbudi; Major General Emile Kallas; Major General Antoine Ahad; former intelligence chief Colonel Johnny 'Abduh; and Major 'Adnan Sha'ban.

Defense minister 'Isam Khuri will consider these resignations within 1 month to decide whether to accept or reject them.

THREE ARRESTED IN ATTEMPT TO SHELL HOTEL

NC081558 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1558 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] A communique issued by the Army command today said Ahmad Ba'labaki, 'Abdallah an-Najjr and 'Awatif Qahwaji were arrested red-handed while they were moving rockets from a Mercedes in the Al-Awza'i locality to an apartment that they had rented overlooking the Lebanon Beach Hotel. They planned to fire the rockets at the hotel during the negotiations. The three defendants were arrested on 5 and 6 February. The defendants admitted to the crime and have been referred to the competent judiciary.

SOCIALISTS' VIOLATION OF SECURITY ACCORD CHARGED

NC090818 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] The written security agreement, which was signed in the mountain the day before yesterday and which Israel has promised to implement, punishing those who violate it, is now being put to the test. The socialists continued to violate the agreement yesterday while the Lebanese Forces adhered to their pledges, but the Israelis did not put an end to the socialists' violations.

The socialists continued to attack the Christian villages until midnight last night. At about 2330 last night, they directed bursts of fire from their positions in (Al-Ma'rufiyah) in the direction of Bsaba. Suq al-Gharb was also subjected to machine-gun fire.

The socialists' violation of the security agreement was obvious yesterday when they kidnapped Joseph Jirjis, Yusuf 'Id, Mansur Tanius Mansur, Marun Mansur, Yusuf al-Bu'ayni, and Ilyas Farah, whose fates are still unknown. The Israeli forces yesterday twice called the [Progressive] Socialist Party to a meeting in Galerie Khayrallah, which is located between Al-Kahhalah and 'Alayh to study the question of the kidnapped persons, but the said party failed to send representatives.

The socialists' attacks yesterday included the shelling of Wadi ad-Dayr from Kafr Hima. A Christian citizen was wounded as a result. They also opened fire from Al-Qurayyah in the direction of Ra's al-Harf as well as sniper fire from Btatir at 'Ayn al-Halazun. Socialists armed concentrations have been seen in Al-Batun building in the western quarter of 'Alayh.

As for the Israeli forces, they have established positions in Galerie Khayrallah, set up roadblocks in 'Alayh and entered the western quarter.

According to security information, the Israeli forces intend to comb the mountain areas close to the contact lines with the Syrians and Palestinians.

TISHRIN COMMENTS ON ISRAELI COMMISSION REPORT

JN090756 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Results of the Investigation and the Premeditated Aggression," today's newspaper TISHRIN writes: The enemy cabinet met to take a stand on the report published by the inquiry commission investigating the Sabra and Shatila massacres which took place during the second half of September last year and whose victims were thousands of innocent Palestinian women, children, and elderly. It seems that the enemy cabinet's stand had actually been decided even before the meeting when the enemy Prime Minister Begin said that the commission's recommendation to sack war minister Sharon is a matter that would be left up to the minister himself. This means that the results and recommendations of the commission are not binding and have no practical value at all. This is confirmed by Sharon's statement before the cabinet meeting that he will not resign because all members of the Israeli Government, as he confessed, are responsible for the massacre. These results were expected because the commission is a government commission formed by Begin not for the sake of condemning him or uncovering the secrets of the Zionist leaders' savage actions, but for the sake of absorbing the great world indignation, whitewashing the black image of their false democracy and giving a mitigating nature to these massacres which have been unprecedented in the history of barbarism and savagery.

The paper adds: The results of the investigation are an opportunity seized by the enemy forces to renew their conflicts with the opposing forces. They are similarly an opportunity for the Israeli Government to divert attention from premeditated aggression against Syria. They are even an opportunity for the U.S. Administration to peddle its plans at the current Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. Therefore, it is not strange to see the Israeli Government commission publish the results of the investigation at a time when Israel is reinforcing its military concentrations in Lebanon in an attempt to deal a blow to Syria and its armed forces, particularly to Syria's air defense installations, or at a time when U.S. envoy Philip Habib has returned to the region to peddle the joint U.S.-Israeli arrangements through the abovementioned negotiations. In any case, what is certain is that Israel will not lose the chance of employing the internal political controversy which began with the results of the investigation to carry out grave and even very grave actions.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR RABAT

JN051826 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] The People's Assembly delegation, led by Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi, left Damascus today to attend the Arab Parliamentary Union Council meeting scheduled to convene in Rabat from 8-10 February. In a statement before departure, Az-Zu'bi asserted that Arab parliamentarians must make U.S. support for the Zionist enemy a costly business, affecting its numerous interests in the Arab region, and reaffirm their rejection of Camp David and Reagan's initiative as well as all capitulatory plans and solutions. Az-Zu'bi said that Arab parliamentarians are also required to focus Arab efforts on the question of liberation and confrontation of the danger threatening their entity and fate which is represented by the U.S.-Zionist conspiracies and ambitions in our region. The People's Assembly speaker also called for giving help to Lebanon to confront the Israeli conditions which endanger its security and sovereignty, because the dangers designed by the United States and Israel against Lebanon are not confined to Lebanon but go beyond that to constitute a direct danger and threat to the security, safety, and sovereignty of all the Arabs.

REPORTAGE ON REACTIONS TO COMMISSION FINDINGS

Sharon Statement to Cabinet

TA081427 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1403 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Report from the prime minister's office by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on Minister Sharon's Cabinet session statement; picked up by the radio in progress -- live]

[Text] The IDF officers the commission dealt with are all veteran soldiers who for many years bore the yoke of the difficult war. All the people of Israel are in their debt, owing them the maximum. Their rights are laid bare before all the people, among them the Cabinet members.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan is a battle-experienced soldier who marched the IDF and its commanders in the last war to great achievements which history will yet judge and honor. Raful [chief of staff's nickname] brought respect to himself, the IDF, and the people of Israel. Like him, other commanders and fighters who were mentioned in the commission's report also did that.

As for Major General Amir Drori, the defense minister said that he bore the burden of the campaign in the north on his shoulders as he fought for many years before.

Major General Yehoshu'a Sagi, who also previously participated in some of Israel's hardest and bitterest campaigns, also is very worthy, and everyone knows this.

As for Brigadier General 'Amos Yaron, he said that he, Sharon, was the man who recruited him to the IDF. He is one of the IDF's most courageous commanders and commanded combat units during Israel's campaigns. He has been in service for 25 years, and participated in all the days of fighting in Lebanon without taking even 1 day's break.

Each of these were devoted entirely to Israel's security for a generation and more.

This was a personal statement made by Ari'el Sharon at the Cabinet. As for himself and how he intends to tackle the conclusions referring to himself, he said nothing and it looks like he will leave this for the remaining part of the Cabinet session.

Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat is now speaking. His aide told me about an hour ago that the party [Telem] executive this afternoon discussed the commission's conclusions, and that Minister Ben-Porat will bring his movement's position to the ministers' attention, but we will hear about this later. This is Shim'on Schiffer at the prime minister's office.

Cabinet Session Summary

TA081753 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Report from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer -- recorded]

[Text] Tomorrow the Cabinet will undoubtedly adopt the conclusions drawn by the Kahan commission. A government source said this evening after the Cabinet session that most of the ministers who spoke during the meeting favored such a decision, including Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. As for the question of how its recommendations would be applied, the answer to this is not so unequivocal. Everything focuses and centers on the future of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. A large group of ministers believe that he ought to resign, hand over the defense portfolio to the prime minister, and remain a Cabinet member.

This is the position upheld by Herut ministers, as well as the Liberal ministers, the National Religious Party [NRP] ministers, and the TAMI representative.

It was also stated today that Sharon is not inclined to comply with this call.

As for the moods among the ministers, this could be gleaned from the Cabinet session this afternoon. The justice minister, who opened the debate, presented the various options open to the ministers concerning decisions. Minister Nisim emphasized the fact that the commission ruled that the IDF had no role in the massacre carried out in Sabra and Shatila.

Yoram Aridor supported adopting the recommendations and conclusions. Addressing Ari'el Sharon, he said: If I were in your place, I would not hesitate for a moment and I would have acted on the recommendations. Another senior Herut minister thinks that if Sharon does not leave of his own free will, this should be brought for a decision in a vote during a Cabinet session.

Mordekhai Ben-Porat went further and suggested that the entire Cabinet resign as a result of the grave things said about it. Yosef Burg said: The conclusions should be adopted. He, too, believed that the defense minister should resign. Eli'ezer Shostak was among the few who suggested turning down the recommendations. What do you want of Arik, he asked?

As for the Liberal ministers, Simha Ehrlich talked to the prime minister from where he is recovering. He also conversed with Gid'on Pat, and supported Sharon's resignation as a way out of the crisis.

The time factor is currently playing a very significant role. The more time passes, the greater the pressures from all directions will be. Sharon did not say anything during the session except read a personal statement supporting the IDF officers who were hurt by the commission's conclusions. In his opinion, the recommendations regarding them should not be implemented.

The prime minister announced at the session that he has no intention of firing the defense minister, adding that he still needs to think about his path and action regarding the recommendations themselves.

Tonight, the consultations among the coalition components will continue, and tomorrow afternoon, when the Cabinet holds another session, the decisions will be made.

About an hour ago, the prime minister's media affairs adviser, Uri Porat, transmitted to me the following announcement regarding the commission of inquiry. In his announcement, Uri Porat said that the most important finding among the commission findings, as far as Israel is concerned, can be found on page 63, which says: We have no doubt that no plot was woven and no scheming was done between any member of the Israeli political echelon or the IDF military echelon and the Phalangists in order to carry out atrocious deeds in the camps.

The report also emphasizes that the decision to allow the Phalangists into the camps was adopted for the purpose of preventing additional IDF casualties. And, later on, it says that there was no intention by any Israeli to harm noncombatants. This is the certificate of honor which the commission of inquiry accorded the Israeli Government, and it is weighty enough to be balanced against any other finding in the report, tipping the scale, the prime minister's media affairs adviser said.

Another fact: Business continues as usual at the prime minister's office, or at least this is what people here say. Tomorrow evening, after the Cabinet session, the prime minister will confer with U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib to discuss the Lebanon arrangements.

Begin Not To Fire Sharon

TA081609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] The Cabinet will continue to discuss the Kahan commission report tomorrow morning. At the session that ended about an hour ago, the prime minister announced that he has no intention of firing Ari'el Sharon. This was reported by our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer.

A senior Herut minister has said that if Sharon does not resign of his own free will, the matter should be brought before the entire Cabinet for a decision by vote. Sharon himself issued a personal announcement and warmly defended the IDF officers whom the commission of inquiry found guilty. He said the conclusions should be well studied, but things should not be rushed.

Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich who is recuperating in the United States, was called on the telephone, and he recommended implementing the commission findings.

A large group of ministers are forming the opinion that the Cabinet really must implement the conclusions in full.

Refa'el Ben-Natan, who is thought to be one of the stronger National Religious Party figures, has said that his party is demanding that the Cabinet honor the recommendations of the commission it itself established. However, he said there will not be a Knesset majority for the demand to hold early elections.

MK Abu-Hatzera of TAMI said that if the crisis is not resolved, the Knesset elections should be held at the same time as the municipal elections.

Sharon Address

TA082000 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1910 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Address by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to the members of the Jabotinsky Order at the Tel Aviv Plaza Hotel -- live, intercepted in progress by radio]

[Text] One of the most daring officers the IDF has ever had, and I mention him from the day I recruited him to the IDF. He commanded combat units in many Israeli campaigns for 26 years, and participated in every day of fighting in Lebanon without taking even 1 day's break. Each one of them has totally devoted himself to Israel's security for a generation and more. Some of the names I have mentioned were more known or more frequently raised, but I would add to this distinguished list -- to which it is an honor to belong -- many more good IDF commanders.

Let us not forget for even one single moment that thanks to these commanders and their colleagues, and of course the fighters of the IDF, Israel was able to score a victory in its campaigns. As a result of our success in Lebanon, not only did we eliminate the PLO's terrorist threat, but we also changed for the better our political standing, with far-reaching consequences for the better in regard to the future of Judaea and Samaria, even if we see the difficulties now and even if the situation seems complicated. Ultimately, anyone who has only a bit of faith and patience will see that Israel's move brought about a decisive change in the political situation, has already brought this crucial change, and will result in even more far-reaching changes in the future.

Imagine if we today had to face the Reagan plan with the PLO in Lebanon at full strength and with full impact. And what does its full strength mean? What is all its power and all its influence? We learned this during the last war, and even if we had realized -- and we never lacked intelligence reports -- what was happening and what existed in Lebanon, the power there -- not that of the PLO's military strength, but the full impact of the overall problems surrounding this war -- was fully realized by us only during the war in Lebanon. Therefore I say: Imagine that we had to combat under these circumstances that plan which people are trying to force on us and that will fail because Israel will not accept it, regardless of whether the commission decided one way or the other. [applause] This plan is independent of one person or another. A plan that brings danger to the existence and well-being of the Jewish nation will never be. [applause]

So I say: Imagine if we had to combat it, with the PLO in Lebanon in full force and influence, with its gun pointed to our foreheads, and particularly paralyzing our settlements in northern Israel. Imagine, picture in your mind how bad our predicament could have been if we had to combat this plan while Judaea and Samaria are void of Jewish settlements, the way they were until 1977. They were empty then, but today the number of Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Jordan Rift Valley is 130, and we are presently in full swing establishing dozens of additional settlements.

Our foremost duty to ourselves and our sons is to do everything so these achievements are not taken away from us as a result of intimidation campaigns, artificial storms, and feebleness of mind. Unfortunately, this feebleness of mind had been afflicting various sectors and parts of the Israeli population on occasion. Sometimes it may be honest, authentic frailty, but quite often unfortunately, and particularly recently, this frailty was aimed also at reaping internal political fruit. It harbors a real danger to Israel's security, and it also truly jeopardizes Israel's future, but some hope that it could be possible to reap some small political victory from it. To them it may seem like a big victory. They hope that by opposing the line decided upon by the Cabinet -- which is a government elected by the people of Israel -- and perhaps through some slight cooperation with others they will be able to weaken us. I am saying that sometimes this feebleness of mind occurs, but at times this is not naive and sincere feebleness of mind, but is the feebleness of mind behind which there are absolutely cold-minded intentions and plans, or internal political goals. What is so grave is that we have reached the situation where people today are prepared to jeopardize the national interests which are Israel's most vital interests. For what? For the sake of an internal political achievement. This is something we have never experienced in the past.

I said that we cannot afford to lose the achievements we scored. What exactly do we want? What are we aiming for? If we take Lebanon for a moment, are we aiming to obtain even 1 square meter of Lebanese soil? There is not one member of the government, and I believe there is no one in Israel, who wants even 1 meter of Lebanese territory. Do we want [words indistinct] I am sure none of us wants to seize others' waters. Throughout our years of existence we fought to defend our own waters. This has always been our objective, not to snatch someone else's water.

What exactly are we fighting for, and what is the cause of all the furor? In other words, why the shouts of glee yesterday in Washington, which awaited impatiently the outcome of the commission of inquiry's decisions? What do we actually want? What we want in Lebanon is to guarantee that Lebanon would no longer go back to being a terrorist country, as it was. And in Lebanon there was, for years, a terrorist country, a state within a state, but a state for all intents and purposes.

What we want is to guarantee those security arrangements and that this does not recur. And what do we want in Judaea and Samaria? I am not [words indistinct] over our historic right over these parts of Eretz Yisra'el. I do not need to remind this group here, but what do we want in Judaea and Samaria? What we want in Judaea and Samaria is to prevent the creation there of what I would call the Lebanon model. Those who want to comprehend the nature of the plan offered us today must remember that we have already gone very far indeed when we suggested the autonomy plan, which is the farthest-reaching plan Israel can adopt, and would not take another. However, when we come to judge the plans laid down before us, we must try to find out what, exactly, this plan is.

I wanted, with your permission if you will allow me to take another couple of minutes of your time, to try to explain why what we are being offered is precisely a plan that can be called by one name: The Lebanese model. What was there in Lebanon? There are 270,000 Palestinian Arabs there. The Lebanese sometimes talk about half a million, but we rely on figures supplied by UNRWA, which are also exaggerated. Well, then, 270,000.

I know that I may have disappointed you because you had thought I would come and talk about the commission of inquiry, but [applause] the Cabinet decided that this will be discussed at the Cabinet forum. Although there may be other places where this is being discussed and perhaps you there [addressing the film crew present] [words indistinct].

'Arafat on the one hand is a bit pleased, although not totally. He, too, is also not totally satisfied. But here too there are those who are not completely happy. But 'Arafat as well is not totally pleased. On my way here from Jerusalem today, I heard that Egypt also expressed its opinion on the conclusions reached by the commission of inquiry -- which is why you took pains to come here -- I am sorry to disappoint you. The real problems of the people of Israel, are the future of the people of Israel, its security and well-being. These depend at present on two central subjects: One is our struggle for political arrangements in Lebanon, and the other our insistent steadfastness to oppose any plan that would harm our existence and security in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. [applause]

I would like, with your permission, to go back and analyze the suggestions we are being offered regarding Judaea and Samaria, and explain why I call them the Lebanese model. I said that in Lebanon there were, or are, 270,000 Palestinians. [end of transmission]

Defense Ministry Announcement

TA091249 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1235 GMT 9 Feb 83

["Defense Ministry Announcement: The Defense Minister Will Propose to the Cabinet To Reject the Personal Recommendations Referring to the IDF Commanders" -- ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 8 Feb (ITIM) --Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon today attended a special debate called by the IDF General Staff on the issue of the commission of inquiry's findings.

The General Staff heard the explanation of the military advocate about the legal aspects of the commission's report. The defense minister told the members of the General Staff that he would today propose to the Cabinet to separate the recommendations referring to the political level from those dealing with the IDF commanders.

The minister informed the members of the IDF General Staff that he would propose to the Cabinet that it should reject the personal recommendations referring to the IDF commander, due to the severe implications that they might have on the army's performance. The minister reiterated his remarks at the Cabinet session yesterday that he does not question the commission's report and findings both in the political and military spheres.

Begin on Early Elections

TA091218 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] The prime minister has told several leaders of the coalition that he is in favor of advancing the date of the elections to the Knesset, but is being forced to take into account the wishes of his partners to the coalition who do not want that. He explained that he fears if a decision were made to hold early elections, several current members of the coalition might establish an alternate coalition with the Alignment.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Minister Gid'on Pat told Menahem Begin this afternoon that all the findings of the Kahan commission must be implemented, including the recommendation calling for Minister Sharon's resignation. The Cabinet session has been delayed by 2 hours and will only be held at 1800 to enable Minister's Shamir and Moda'i to return from overseas and attend the meeting.

Sharon's Supporters Comment

TA082050 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Report by military correspondent Dan Scemama -- live]

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon does not intend to resign from the Cabinet. One of his associates who said so added -- and I am quoting: "He will not resign; if Begin wants, let him go to the president himself." In contrast, Sharon said in the Cabinet that he told the prime minister that he accepts the commission's findings, and that he must now decide. Sharon's associates also said that Israel must not hand the defense minister's head on a silver platter to the Americans, some of whom are waiting for that.

Sharon's associates stressed that the commission of inquiry did not say that the defense minister must resign. This, they said, is the media's interpretation. The associates said that the commission recommended that the defense minister reach conclusions, meaning that he must reach organizational, communications, or other conclusions about which the report speaks. The second part of the commission's recommendation says the following: If it becomes necessary for the prime minister to consider whether or not he should use his authority based on the law that enables him to dismiss a minister. On this recommendation, Sharon's associates said the commission's intention is that only if the defense minister does not reach the organizational and communications conclusion, the prime minister is entitled to use his authority.

The sources added that whatever the defense minister's fate, the Agranat commission affair will not recur, and therefore, at today's Cabinet session, the defense minister praised the IDF officers who were harshly criticized by the commission. In Sharon's opinion, all the officers' contributions outweigh their failings, and he presented the contributions hoping that the Cabinet would consider them. Sharon opposes their being removed from their positions.

Demonstrators Clash in Tel Aviv

TA081854 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1840 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, 8 Feb (ITIM) -- Shouts and bitter arguments between supporters and opponents of the commission of inquiry findings occurred during a demonstration held this afternoon at Dizengoff Square in Tel Aviv. The demonstration was originally intended to call for an exchange of prisoners between Israel, Syria, and the PLO, but upon the publication of the conclusions reached by the commission of inquiry, the organizers decided to add to the demonstration slogans demanding that the conclusions be fully implemented and that all those found to have been responsible for the massacre in Sabra and Shatila be tried.

The demonstration started at around 1630, when some 40 demonstrators arrived, headed by Yosef Elgazi from the Human and Civil Rights League. Elgazi called for the full and immediate implementation of the commission's recommendations, criticized the shameful conditions in the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon, and warned that if these are not corrected, they could possibly serve as further incriminating material for another commission of inquiry, which would also draw shocking conclusions. He called for the dismantlement of that camp and for an exchange of prisoners at once in order to get all the prisoners -- Israeli, Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian -- back to their homes. As he was speaking, there were many disturbances, and some Likud and Tehiya youths shouted: "Traitors," and "Begin, Begin." The demonstrators shouted a rhythmic "Begin resign," "Sharon, go home" and "Fascism will not be allowed" to answer them back.

Large police forces that were on the site occasionally intervened to stop the noisy arguments from turning into fistfights (the demonstration was licensed). The demonstration ended in about an hour, but noisy arguments continued between passersby for a long time after.

Positions of Knesset Factions

TA090227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] Most coalition members believe there is no other choice but to bring about the dismissal of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon in order to get out of the maze created in the wake of the release of the Kahan commission report. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports on the positions of the various factions of the house:

[Begin recording] [Barqay] There are no surprises in the struggle currently underway within the Likud. Those who supported Ari'el Sharon throughout the war are also supporting him now, and those who all the time looked for an excuse to weaken his strength found an effective weapon in the Kahan commission report. In any case, the members of the Likud's liberal faction, except for Beni Shalita, as well as most Herut members in the Knesset, demand the resignation of Sharon as the only possible way out of the crisis.

Opposing them are the members of the Tehiya faction, who are staunch supporters of Sharon, the members of the La'am faction of Minister Shostak and several Herut members, including Deputy Knesset Speaker Me'ir Kohen.

[Kohen] I contend that the government did not get into a quagmire and therefore there is no need to get out of it. There is a problem, conclusions were made which must be learned, and those things that need mending must be repaired. However, there is a long way from this until the resignation of this or another minister, or the government. I do not think that Arik Sharon should resign or must be dismissed.

It is just that lessons must be learned. Just as there are mistakes, people also learn their lessons -- and mistakes must be corrected.

[Barqay] Within the National Religious Party [NRP] the ratio is 5 to 1 -- the latter being Rabbi Druckman -- also pressing for a speedy adoption of the commission of inquiry's findings.

This morning TAMI says: If there is no way out of the coalition confusion we will go to elections at the end of the year.

As for Agudat Yisra'el, there is again a dispute between the Hassidic faction of Rabbi Shapira, the chairman of the coalition, and MK Porush's men. Last night, Shapira told us: A commission established by the government is not a decoration. It is unthinkable that a commission should be established but its findings ignored. In contrast, MK Porush said: Goyim kill goyim and we have to pay the price, as he phrased it. Totally out of the question, Menahem Porush said.

Meanwhile, the opposition has been keeping a low profile. The Alignment and Shinuy are standing on the side and awaiting the Cabinet's decision. These factions were even angry at HADASH's initiative to express no-confidence in the government last week.

However, it is already clear that no opposition faction will make do with the expulsion of Sharon from the Defense Ministry. The Alignment leaders have agreed among themselves that after Sharon has been dismissed from the post of defense minister -- if this is really carried out -- the next move would be dismissing him from his membership in the Cabinet. The opposition's low profile should not mislead anyone: Its members do not intend to let go of the opportunity which has come their way. [end recording]

More on Parties Positions

TA090630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] The leaders of the coalition parties in the Knesset, except for the Tehiya, are striving to bring about a Cabinet decision which will confront Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon with faits accomplis. In consultations last night among the leaders of the coalition, an understanding was reached that there is no other choice but to implement the Kahan commission findings, including the personal recommendations. The leaders of the coalition say that if the defense minister does not resign willingly, the prime minister himself must resign and thus bring about the resignation of the entire Cabinet. This was reported by our Knesset correspondent.

Our correspondent points out that, opposite the aforementioned leaders, several Likud members of Herut as well as members of the La'am and Tehiya factions want to prevent the Cabinet from making a too premature decision, as they see it. The Cabinet will convene again this afternoon and will apparently adopt the findings.

Serious differences of opinion emerged last night at the meeting of the Herut faction regarding the status of Minister Sharon. As said, most of them apparently arrived at the conclusion that there is no way out other than dismissing him.

The Likud's liberal faction convened twice yesterday but has kept totally silent. Nevertheless, our correspondent in the United States has learned the Liberal party leader Simha Ehrlich, who is convalescing in New York, said in private talks that if Sharon does not resign or is not dismissed this might bring about the formation of a government headed by the Alignment.

The secretariat of the liberal youths called on the defense minister not to resign. In their opinion, Israel should not pay for the deeds of the Christians in Lebanon.

The National Religious Party [NRP] demands that the government fully implement the findings but, at the same time, it is not interested in early elections. NRP member Hayim Druckman, however, believes otherwise. Yesterday he said that the commission's recommendations are too severe. One must bear in mind that the defense minister, the chief of staff, and the IDF officers first and foremost had Israel's security in mind when they were conducting the war, and even if their considerations were wrong they do not deserve such recommendations.

Agudat Yisra'el will determine its position about the commission's findings today. The faction will meet the prime minister prior to the Cabinet session today. Yet, already last night Agudat Yisra'el announced that it fully trusts the defense minister.

The Tehiya and TAMI factions have expressed their opinion in favor of advancing the date of elections.

The dovish religious movement Netivot Shalom [peaceful paths] calls on the government to embrace the commission's findings at once and expresses its support for the religious ministers in their demand that justice be done. The movement regards MK Hanan Porat's remarks as an example of the moral deterioration which consecrates all means for the sake of Judaea and Samaria. Hanan Porat believes that the defense minister should not resign.

Shamir on Early Elections

TA081848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has decided to cut short a European tour following publication of the commission of inquiry report. The foreign minister refused direct comment on the report at a news conference in Bonn, but he did say he thought there might be early elections called in Israel as a result of the report.

Alignment Announcement

TA091102 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1049 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] In its first announcement released a few minutes ago, the Knesset Alignment faction states that the government must immediately implement the findings of the Kahan commission, both the personal recommendations and the implications entailed in the recommendations regarding the Cabinet's performance, such as miscalculation, indifference, and troubled relations which prevent cooperation. The Alignment's announcement was formulated by a small team set up to this effect headed by Knesset Members Peres and Rabin.

Our correspondent Gil'ad Mishori points out that although this is not explicitly stated in the announcement, some people regard it as a call for the government's resignation. The announcement goes on to say that if the Cabinet does not make any decision in its meeting this evening, this should be regarded as shirking a decision or as a decision to shirk. The Alignment's special team is expected to issue another announcement after the Cabinet makes its decisions.

Tehiya Submits Draft Law

TA091008 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text. A few minutes ago, the Tehiya faction submitted a draft law to dissolve the Knesset.

According to its proposal, elections would be held on 25 November this year, the date set for elections to the local authorities. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli points out that usually a coalition faction needs the approval of the coalition's executive in order to submit any draft law but, in this case, the Tehiya decided to submit the draft law without seeking approval. Our correspondent adds that if the Knesset House Committee does not allot a special session to discuss the draft law, it would only be possible to discuss it in 2 months.

The Tehiya faction also asked the prime minister to put off the resolutions of the Cabinet about the commission of inquiry until Friday morning. In a cable to Prime Minister Menahem Begin, MK Ge'ula Kohen says that the Tehiya secretariat has been summoned for tomorrow at 1700, and therefore the faction cannot determine its position before then. MK Kohen promises that the Tehiya will complete its deliberations by Friday morning.

Army Intelligence Reaction

TA082120 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Report by military correspondent Dan Scemama -- live]

[Text] The commission of inquiry's report was received by the IDF with surprise. Senior officers told us that the harshness of the expressions and the unequivocal operative conclusions regarding some of the officers are what surprised the IDF. One fact can already be stated: The commission of inquiry's report dealt the intelligence branch a heavy blow. Officers in that branch told us today that this is the second time that the intelligence branch has been found guilty of a blunder, and the officers wanted to stress that the tools for the information about events in Lebanon were in the Mosad's hands. The Mosad was acquitted, while the intelligence branch was hit.

For the 114 days that the commission conducted its investigations, many actions were frozen in the IDF, particularly in the sphere of senior appointments. In 2 months, the chief of staff will retire and it is not yet known who will take his place. The big question now is whether the defense minister will continue in his post. The defense minister's candidate for the post of chief of staff is Major General Dan Shomron. If the defense minister resigns from his post, do the chances of Major General Avigdor Ben-Gal -- the chief of staff's candidate -- increase? Or do the chances of the deputy chief of staff, Major General Moshe Levi, increase? General Levi was not involved in the massacre investigation, and he is not the candidate of one of the figures convicted by the commission. In the IDF today, officers feel satisfied that unlike the Agranat commission, the Kahan commission also found political leaders guilty.

Since the commission of inquiry began its work, the relations between the chief of staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon have been disrupted, and this influenced the army's activities. One of the defense minister's associates told us 2 weeks ago that when Sharon appoints a new chief of staff, he intends also to appoint a group of new officers in the IDF and thus leave this imprint on the IDF. The question now is: Will Sharon be the defense minister who will determine the IDF's miage in the coming years? Senior IDF sources stressed that the commission of inquiry's report constitutes a crisis that the IDF will overcome as it overcame crises in the past. At the same time, the IDF will doubtless have to learn operative lessons, mainly in the communications systems between the various echelons, and in the decision-making processes. All this, of course, after the Cabinet decides how to treat the commission of inquiry's report.

Morning Press Editorials

TA090707 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0435 GMT 9 Feb 83

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] HA'ARETZ says that the Kahan commission's findings are right and justified, and the government must carry them out at once. Since the commission of inquiry said what it did about Mr Ari'el Sharon there is no room for him in the Israeli Government, as simple as that. Hopefully, the ministers will succeed in resisting the pressures exerted by Mr Sharon and his various supporters, and Mr Begin will reconsider and become convinced that the government should accept and implement all the commission's findings, just as he was convinced in September that the commission of inquiry had to be established. Mr Begin himself did not come out completely clean of the inquiry; the foreign minister was also seriously harmed by the report. We would have expected Mr Shamir not to make light of Minister Mordekhay Tzipori's request. The implementation of the commission's recommendations is the minimum that must be demanded of this government.

HAMODI'A writes that, undoubtedly, one may be amazed at the severity of the Kahan commission findings but there is hardly any room for surprise over the convictions. From the beginning, the establishment of the commission was a mistake and the unfortunate consequence of a political situation the government ran into at the time following the events, demonstrations, and pressures within the government, particularly on the part of the National Religious Party [NRP] representatives who explicitly demanded its establishment. The excess of justice displayed by the commission — to an extent which even took the heads of the opposition and the avowed political enemies of the prime minister and defense minister by surprise — has put in question the very use of commissions of inquiry on such sensitive issues.

DAVAR says that the Israeli public, which displayed maturity and wisdom 4 months ago when it compelled the government to renege on its position and establish the commission, will not wait too long before it expresses its opinion about the government's abstention from taking the only step that contains a trace of self-respect. That is not the way for the prime minister to close this dark chapter in his long political career. The glory he sought to impart through his deeds and teachings cannot possibly allow him to remain in his post as if nothing had happened. The minimum required of a civilized society at once, and with no further delay, is to make an unambiguous decision to implement the commission of inquiry's findings. In 1974 there was a great deal of criticism and complaints about the work of the Agranat commission, but the implementation of its recommendations was not put off by even one day. What happened in the Cabinet yesterday on this issue is shameful, as the paper phrases it.

HATZOFE writes that in the wake of the Kahan commission recommendations the government is called upon to decide on how to implement the findings. This is no easy job, but it should set out for itself the goal of fully implementing the findings of the commission it appointed while maintaining the integrity and unity of the government. At this time and in light of the hard struggles in store for Israel, national unity is as vital as air. A national unity government is called for at this time, emphasizing the things we share rather than those that divide us. However, even if the various elements do not rise above differences of opinion, all of them must contribute their share to create an atmosphere of national unity in anticipation of the struggles ahead of Israel.

'AL HAMISHMAR says that the real test begins now, after the earthquake. The real test lies in the ability to open the eyes of the public to absolutely reject any interim conclusions or solutions. Under no circumstances should there be a national unity government. It is too early to predict internal developments. One should opt for either an alternate government or early elections. One thing, however, is clear: This government must not remain in its post.

THE JERUSALEM POST writes that what the government must do is accept the strictures of the Kahan commission's entire report in all their gravity, and whatever the price.

AL-ANBA' says that one thing is clear and that is that the IDF, which represents the entire nation, and the political level in charge of it are clean of any direct responsibility for the massacre in Sabra and Shatila. At this time, too, one should not forget the contribution of senior officers -- who might be harmed by the report -- who are the best commanders in charge of Israel's strength and security. Nevertheless, a democratic country like Israel cannot ignore the recommendations of a judicial commission of inquiry. The question is how to prevent shocks within the IDF and foil attempts from various quarters to exploit this event in order to deprive Israel of the fruits of its brilliant victory in the Peace for Galilee operation.

Kahan, Baraq Threats Reported

TA082051 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Jerusalem police have stationed guards at the homes of Justices Kahan and Baraq after information was received on intentions by extremist groups to attack them following the publication of the commission of inquiry's findings. Our correspondent Uri Kohen Aharonov notes that during the commission's work its members were threatened.

West Bank Reactions

TA090930 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 83 p 3

[Text] A general expectation -- and hope -- for the implementation of the Kahan commission's report was the characteristic reaction throughout the territories yesterday.

Public figures however expressed doubt that the findings would be implemented in their entirety. Some said the commission had been set up to clear Israel's name in world opinion, but said the findings show that there is no cleansing of the government from at least some responsibility for the massacres in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps last September.

A newspaper editor in east Jerusalem said he fears that, following the publication of the commission's findings, pressure would increase on residents of the territories -- both from the military and new settlers. He said residents of the West Bank fear acts of reprisal from settlers.

Deposed Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa said yesterday that the families of refugees killed in the Beirut camps should be indemnified, just as Jews who survived the holocaust were given reparations.

Nevertheless, most of those interviewed expressed appreciation of Israel's legal system, which they characterized as virtually the only dependable arm of the country's government.

DEMONSTRATION HELD AT U.S. EMBASSY 8 FEB

TA081918 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1850 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, 8 Feb (ITIM) -- Some 250 people demonstrated this evening at 1800 opposite the U.S. Embassy on Hayarqon Street in Tel Aviv, against "the worrisome erosion in the U.S. policy in the region, the application of pressure on Israel in a bid to shake its right to settle all over Eretz Yisra'el and to prevent it from realizing its right over Jerusalem as well."

The demonstrators included Irgun and Lehi veterans as well as members from the Tagar Group [former Irgun veterans], and members of the "Civilians for the Strengthening of Israel," "the Silent Voice," "academic circles" and members of "peace and security" groups.

A delegation of three demonstrators, Yosef Nahmias, Beinyamin Shahar, and (David Grinter) was received by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis' political secretary Mr Shapiro, and submitted to him a petition protesting, among other things, the tough use of pressure to have Israel capitulate to the "Reagan plan, which in its very essence undermines the foundations of the Camp David accords."

The demonstrators also argued that "elements in the U.S. Administration are working tirelessly to sabotage the talks for a peaceful arrangement between Israel and Lebanon. On this the United States has submitted to pressure from Saudi Arabia and the Arab rejectionist countries by applying pressure to the Lebanese Government and in trying to shake the people of Israel's confidence in their government.

Dozens of placards were carried in the demonstration, some of them saying: "Friendship with the United States -- yes; dictates -- no," "the representatives of Saudi Arabia in the administration -- resign," "Ariel Sharon -- the architect of removing the terrorists from Lebanon," "Israel is a loyal and sincere ally," "A PLO state will never be."

The demonstrators shouted slogans and sang national hymns accompanied by an accordion. There were no incidents and no policemen could be observed on the street.

The demonstration lasted some 45 minutes and dispersed to the sound of the "national anthem."

IRAQ SAID STEPPING UP EFFORTS ON NUCLEAR REACTOR

TA071023 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Feb 83 p 2

["Exclusive" report from Canada by Yoram Hamizrahi]

[Text] Winnipeg -- Iraq has stepped up its efforts to rebuild the nuclear reactor destroyed by Israel. Returning from a visit to Baghdad a few days ago, Canadian officials told HA'ARETZ that the site of the nuclear reactor looked "like an enormous mountain." they say Iraq is completing the construction of the entire reactor, including accessory facilities underground, and that a large number of antiaircraft weapons in the area, missiles and radar systems, stand out.

The number of American and Canadian businessmen visiting Iraq has increased recently and, among other things, large grain deals between Iraq and the United States have been disclosed.

HA'ARETZ has also learned that Iraqi officials have toured several aircraft manufacturing plants in North America as part of deals to purchase large numbers of helicopters and cargo planes "for civilian purposes."

ALGERIAFLN OFFICIAL MEETS WITH PNC DELEGATION CHAIRMAN

LD062259 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1530 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the official responsible for the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, has had a meeting with Mr Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the PNC who arrived yesterday evening in Algiers at the head of an important Palestinian delegation to prepare the session of the PNC in Algiers on 14 February. After reviewing developments in the struggle against the Zionist entity and the response to the imperialist-Zionist plans, the two sides reaffirmed the close ties linking the two Palestinian and Algerian revolutions and the fraternity between the two peoples. The two sides also expressed their conviction about the ultimate victory of the Palestinian people who have a historic right to their lands. The meeting of the PNC in Algiers will be fundamental in meeting this objective. The PNC (?will be) meeting for the first time since the tragic events of summer 1982. Mr al-Fahum has just announced that the meeting will be preceded by a meeting (?on 10) February attended by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Mr 'Arafat, the secretaries general of the Palestinian organizations and the main leaders of the PNC. It may be pointed out that Mr 'Arafat is currently in Jordan where he was due to meet with King Husayn today.

FOREIGN MINISTER HEADS DELEGATION ON CUBA VISIT

For Havana reportage on the visit to Cuba of Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, including initial talks with Cuba's foreign minister, Isidoro Malmierca, see the Cuba section of the 8 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, and subsequent issues.

LIBYAAL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES IRAN'S 'AZIZI

LD090054 Tehran IRNA in English 2003 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb.8, IRNA -- Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi submitted a message of President Khamene'i to the Libyan president, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli, Libya, Monday. During the meeting, 'Azizi expressed happiness that the meeting was being held on the day that the great operations of the Islamic forces had started against the Iraqi aggressors. He continued that this victory not only belonged to Iranian combatants but to all the Muslims and oppressed of the world.

"The deputy foreign minister said that the Wal-Fajr operations were very serious and would continue until ultimate victory. Hoping for the health of the imam, President Khamene'i, and other authorities of the Islamic Republic and expressing delight over the visit of the Iranian delegation, President al-Qadhdhafi said that Libya's stand towards the Islamic Republic was a stand of unity, revolutionary and fundamentally unchangeable.

The Libyan president continued that Libya was beside the Iranian nation and revolution before the overthrow of the shah's regime, and the revolutionary government of Libya was the only one which did not establish relations with the defunct shah's regime.

In conclusion, 'Aziz stressed the importance of the joint session of foreign ministers of Libya and Syria to be held in Tehran, hoping that it would achieve positive results with other member countries of the Steadfastness Front for taking an anti-oppression and anti-Zionist stand.

Al-'Ubaydi Meets 'Azizi

LD071039 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi' Thani 23, Feb 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The foreign liaison secretary Mr. 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi yesterday conferred with the undersecretary of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Ahmad 'Azizi, who is currently visiting the Jamahiriya.

KUNA CITES JALLUD ON POLISARIO, MOROCCO

LD041541 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1409 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Rabat, 4 Feb (KUNA) -- Libya's second strongman, Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, was quoted today as having said his country has not recognized the SDAR [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic] and never will.

The Moroccan opposition paper, AL-BAYANE, said today that Jallud declared his country will fight (?Polisario) until the end if it betrays pan-Arab unity.

Jallud expressed the hope that the clouds of discord between his country and Morocco will disappear soon. He added: "We rely on the peoples of the Arab Maghreb to lead the Arab nation to the shores of safety."

The paper pointed out that a change has been taking place in the Libyan attitude toward the Saharan question and called for exploiting this change for the benefit of the Arab countries.

JANA: IRAQI OFFICIAL SURVIVES ATTEMPT ON LIFE

LD081942 Tripoli JANA in English 1822 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Rabi' Thani 24, Feb 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- Reports from Tehran said today that Muhammad Samir, deputy-chief of the Iraqi Intelligence Service, had escaped an assassination attempt on his life. He sustained minor injuries and [is] still receiving treatment in the hospitals.

MOROCCOMINISTER DECRIES FRENCH MEDIA CAMPAIGN

LD080002 Kuwait KUNA in English 1820 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Rabat, Feb 7 (KUNA) -- Moroccan Minister of State Abdelkarim Ghallab accused Monday the French media and certain sectors of the ruling French Socialist Party of launching an information campaign against his country with the aim of aborting the recent visit of French President Francois Mitterrand to Morocco and to wipe out efforts made by Mitterrand toward correcting bilateral relations.

The minister, who is also a Central Committee member of the Independence Party said that Mitterrand was informed that the Western Sahara issue does not relate technically or legally to the concept of inherited borders from colonialism but it is linked to the concept of liquidating that colonialism. He added that mediation to resolve the Sahara problem depends on the Algerian response to Nairobi's initiative to conduct a referendum in that area. The minister denied rumours saying that the legislative elections scheduled for next spring have been postponed, and said that such rumours are aiming at creating disorder and obstructing the democratic process.

SUDANSUNA RELEASES TEXT OF SSU, CPC STATEMENT

JN041610 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] [No dateline as received] The following is the text of the final statement issued on the talks between the SSU Central Committee side and the CPC Central Committee side:

At the invitation of the SSU Central Committee, a friendship delegation from the CPC Central Committee paid a visit to Sudan 29 January-4 February 1983. During this visit, talks were held between the Chinese side led by Comrade Zhang Xiangshan, adviser of the CPC International Liaison Department, and the Sudanese side led by Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, deputy first secretary of the SSU preparatory Central Committee and chairman of the SSU popular and massive organizations committee.

The two sides exchanged viewpoints on the world political situation and bilateral relations.

During the meeting with SSU Chairman President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, Comrade Zhang Xiangshan conveyed to the president the greetings and wishes of good will of Comrade Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. The president asked him to convey similar greetings and wishes to Comrade Hu Yaobang.

Members of the CPC delegation held friendly meetings with several Sudanese officials.

The relations of friendship and cooperation between the SSU and CPC have been satisfactorily improving since 1978:

In view of the fact that the two sides are in agreement on the need for preserving national independence and world peace and strengthening unity and solidarity among the Third World states; for strengthening cooperation against imperialism, colonialism, and the spirit of hegemony and racial discrimination; for ending Israel's unjust aggression against the Arab and Palestinian people and supporting their just struggle to restore their national rights; and for supporting the struggle of the people of southern Africa against imperialism and racial discrimination and enabling them to win their national independence and restore their human rights; and since the SSU and the CPC are endeavoring to promote their friendship and cooperation on the principles of independence, complete equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, the two sides have agreed on the following program of cooperation for 1983 and 1984:

First: The SSU and the CPC will periodically exchange visits of delegations of specialists. The number of members of these delegations and their level will be decided on when they are sent. During these visits, views will be exchanged on the world situation, the developments in each country, and party activities. In this regard, the SSU has extended an invitation for the CPC to attend the fourth congress of the SSU scheduled to be held 26 February-4 March 1983.

The CPC accepted this invitation gratefully and expressed good wishes for the success of this important congress. Similarly, the CPC extended an invitation to an SSU delegation to visit the PRC. The SSU accepted this invitation gratefully.

Second: The two sides encourage mass and professional organizations such as the organizations of women, youths, and trade unions in both countries to contact each other and cooperate with the aim of strengthening and promoting friendship between the two peoples.

Third: The two sides encourage various media organizations within the SSU and the CPC to exchange visits and hold contacts.

Fourth: The two sides will exchange documents and publications concerning their activities so as to increase understanding between the CPC and the SSU.

Fifth: The two sides will hold contacts and consultations in order to promote their friendship and cooperation through the proper channels including the embassies of the PRC and Sudan.

Sixth: This protocol was drafted in Arabic and Chinese.

NUMAYRI ADDRESSES SSU CELEBRATIONS 7 FEB

JN071909 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 7 Feb (SUNA) -- President leader Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the republic and SSU chairman, has addressed the festive celebrations held by the SSU Presidency Bureau and the work branch [as received] of the SSU presidency today on the occasion of his return to the homeland from his recent tour to Washington and London. President Numayri expressed thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for the sentiments that the Sudanese people have shown toward him during his absence. He said that this tour was necessitated by his health, which requires routine medical checkups.

President Numayri said: My absence, which I believe was a long one, has confirmed that Numayri lives and works for Sudan and not the opposite. He added that nations which aspire to glory and development are those whose institutions are capable of meeting the responsibility of leadership and not those nations whose destiny is dependent on one individual or a few persons.

President Numayri said that he prolonged his trip intentionally to prove by his absence that Sudan is currently governed by a democracy that is practiced and not one of slogans. On the basis of which the institutions perform their duties to prove to us and to others that in their presence there is no vacuum.

President Numayri added that his trip was a long one because part of it was for Sudan. Mentioning that he had met with Sudanese officials, who were on official missions abroad at the time, at his place of residence in Washington and London. He said that he had also met with several political leaders in the U.S. and British capitals and stressed that he had come out of these meetings with the feeling that Sudan is doing well despite all the rumors to the contrary.

President Numayri added that, in the opinion of the officials with whom he had met, Sudan enjoys good economic standing even when it is compared to countries which are not suffering from the world economic crisis or to some advanced countries. President Numayri said that Sudan is politically sound also, and continues to be the hope for achieving peace, security, and stability within an Arab and African context.

President Numayri spoke about the rumors about himself caused by his long trip. He said that he had heard some of the rumors which were circulated in Sudan and which were disseminated by the press of agents abroad. The president added that his only comment on these rumors is that he still is at the head of the Sudanese nation, committed to the people's will, and that he would not remain in his post if he believed he could not fulfill his responsibilities. He explained that these responsibilities require great effort to reaffirm unity and complete the development march.

GHALI ENDS VISIT, HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

NC061912 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 6 Feb (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali left Khartoum this evening on his way back to Cairo from a brief visit to Sudan, during which he delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

He also held meetings with Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mustafa Madani.

At a press conference, held before his departure from Khartoum, Dr Ghali stated that the message he delivered to President Ja'far Numayri contained an analysis of President Husni Mubarak's tour of the United States, Canada, Britain, and France and the results of the talks he held with the heads of government in these states.

He said that during his visit to Khartoum he discussed with the Sudanese foreign minister some issues of common interest within the framework of the continuing coordination between the Sudanese and Egyptian diplomacy.

Dr Ghali explained that these issues pertained to the Middle East problem, and the efforts being exerted to solve it as well as the OAU issue and the ways to solve the crisis through which the organization is passing.

Dr Ghali also pointed out that among the subjects he discussed with the Sudanese foreign minister was the nonalignment policy, the required coordination in this regard, and the role of Sudan and Egypt in the nonaligned conference which will be held in New Delhi in March.

Asked about Egypt's role and its efforts to find a solution to the Middle East problem, Dr Ghali said that these efforts are not confined to the United States alone, pointing out in this regard that President Husni Mubarak, during his visit to the United States, also met with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. He said that this means that Egypt is also working through the United Nations.

Dr Ghali also pointed out that there are other contacts with the Arab states group, foremost of which are Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq. He said that these contacts aim at finding a solution or at least at contributing toward finding a solution to the Middle East crisis.

Dr Ghali pointed out at the conclusion of his press conference that Egypt is in constant touch with the Palestinian people and the PLO, and that there are a number of Palestinian leaders working in Cairo.

NUMAYRI RECEIVES ROK PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JN081527 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Feb (SUNA) -- President Numayri today received a written message from the [South] Korean president. The message was conveyed to the president by South Korean Sports Minister Yi Won-Kyong during an audience at noon today.

The message dealt with bilateral relations and means of further bolstering and developing these relations as well as the ROK's efforts to unite both parts of Korea on the basis that the unity of Korea means the unity of the Korean people.

President Numayri voiced support for these efforts, wishing the Korean people continued progress and prosperity.

ZAIRECOMMUNIQUE ON SOVIET TU DELEGATION VISIT

AB041145 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1320 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 2 Feb (AZAP) -- The 7-day working visit by a delegation of the Central Committee of the USSR Construction and Building Materials Industry Workers Union led by Secretary Rafail Rodionov ended Wednesday morning with the signing of a joint communique by the USSR union and the National Union of Workers of Zaire (UNTZA) at the UNTZA conference hall.

In the joint communique, the two parties confirm their desire to further develop fruitful contacts and cooperation and to exchange experiences in trade union activities and in the editing and publishing of trade union publications. They also agree to hold consultations on current problems affecting the life of workers.

The communique notes that consolidation and development of relations between the USSR Construction and Building Materials Industry Workers Union and UNTZA's National Timber, Construction and Building Materials Workers Federation (FNTBB), on the basis of workers' solidarity, will help to strengthen friendship and mutual understanding between the builders of the USSR and Zaire and help to consolidate the international trade union movement of workers in the two sectors for peace, social justice, and the welfare of the working masses.

The two parties express concern over the increasing international tension and the military threat which undermine peace and freedom and which are caused by the arms race and the militarization of the economy.

The two trade unions stress their desire to help ensure, within their means, the maintenance of detente, halting of the arms race, removal of the military threat, and conversion of a portion of military budgets for peaceful purposes, social development, and the safeguarding of world peace.

The Soviet delegation left Kinshasa for Moscow Wednesday.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENSE VISITS ISRAEL

AB071314 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Reciprocity: This is the motive behind the 1-week visit to Israel by Vice Admiral (Lopoconda Wa Tenge), the secretary of state for national defense and territorial security, at the invitation of General Ari'el Sharon, the Israeli defense minister, who paid a 4-day official visit to our country last month.

CIVIL SERVANTS INVOLVED IN FRAUD TO BE ARRESTED

AB051046 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Excerpt] All the civil servants involved in fraudulent financial deals and who are on the run are regarded as having resigned from their jobs. This decision was made by the Executive Council during its meeting yesterday. According to the Executive Council spokesman, Citizen Kande Dzambulate, who as you know is the state commissioner for information, culture, and arts, the Justice Department has received instructions to issue arrest warrants for the runaway civil servants. The list of these runaways, as well as the names of those already remanded to prison custody, will soon be published by the press.

BENINKEREKOU STATEMENT BEFORE LEAVING FOR TOGO

AB082203 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Excerpts] President Mathieu Kerekou left this morning for Lama-Kara, Togo, to attend the deliberations of the Entente Council's informal summit. Present at the Cotonou International Airport to see him off were militants, cadres working in Cotonou, members of the diplomatic and consular corps in Cotonou, the National Executive Council, the Permanent Committee of the Revolutionary National Assembly and the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin. President Kerekou answered a question asked him in the VIP lounge by our colleague Noel Soanvi.

[Begin recording] [Question] Comrade President, in a few hours from now you will be taking part in the deliberations of the Entente Council's summit. Comrade President, what can you say about the participation of our country in that summit which is taking place at a particularly difficult time marked by the problems facing the OAU and the recent expulsion of west Africans residing illegally in the Federal Republic of Nigeria?

[Answer] In fact, you have brought up problems of which we are all aware. After all, I am the current chairman of the Entente Council. I personally asked my peers to hold a summit in Lama-Kara because our eldest, President Houphouet-Boigny, is now on a friendly state visit to the Republic of Togo. Henceforth, we had to take the opportunity of his presence in our region to meet in order to examine the new situation which has just cropped up.

You have also said that our continental organization is facing a difficult situation. On several occasions I have said on behalf of all the Beninese people that Benin refuses to acknowledge publicly that the OAU is facing a situation which is difficult to solve; it is rather a matter of admission of a member state into the OAU and also the representation of another member state. For us in Benin, we must understand that the OAU is not going through a political crisis. Those who turned the two issues into a crisis will certainly know how to go about solving the so-called crisis. In any case, we Beninese must know that the so-called crisis is due solely to the pernicious action of international imperialism. From now on we must avoid the confusion lying in the affirmation that the OAU is facing a difficult political situation.

You have also said that the situation in Africa, and particularly in our subregion, is getting more and more difficult. In fact the situation was already difficult and it has now become worse because of the Federal Republic of Nigeria's decision as a sovereign and independent member state of the OAU. In fact, what is the problem exactly? The international press has amplified the events because of Nigeria's position in Africa and even in the world. Nigeria is one of the greatest, the most powerful countries on the African Continent. It is a member state of and the headquarters of ECOWAS. This must be the reason why international opinion was deeply affected by the decision of the Nigerian Government to invite ECOWAS nationals to kindly leave its national territory, especially as some of them did not meet the requirements to be allowed to stay indefinitely or any longer in the member states.

As current ECOWAS chairman, I did not want to see in that decision anything other than what I have asked my compatriots. In fact, some months ago in a radio-broadcast communique we asked our fellow Beninese to obtain the required documents before going to an ECOWAS member state. ECOWAS is a regional body. It has a charter and regulations clearly explaining what must be understood by the free movement of persons and property.

We only regret that the ECOWAS member states were not informed before the decision was made. Each of us would have taken the necessary measures in order to receive in dignity and discipline the returning fellow citizens. We also regret that the deadline for the departure was so short, because, even with the necessary means, it is impossible to make arrangements within the national territory to receive more than 2 million deportees. The decision was already made. You know its adverse effects on our country which is a transit point in our subregion. We can hardly remain unconcerned because now we are facing difficulties in the reception and sheltering of our brothers and sisters from ECOWAS member states.

Meanwhile, we have received a telex from the Mano River union leaders including Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone -- I cannot hide this fact from you, especially as you are well-informed newsmen. Those leaders asked me, as the current ECOWAS chairman, to convene an extraordinary summit in order to examine the problems before the holding of the nonaligned summit scheduled to take place in the first 2 weeks of March. But it is difficult to hold a meeting without preparations and without consultations. After our summit late in 1982 in Yamoussoukro, I am now on my way to Lama-Kara where I will meet with my peers to examine all the problems facing us. Such problems are the situation in Namibia, in Western Sahara, in Chad where there is a lull and now the situation in our subregion resulting from the decision of which you are well aware -- namely the expulsion of illegal aliens from the Federal Republic of Nigeria. [end recording]

GHANA

LATE ARRIVALS CLAIM NOT ALL DEPORTEES OUT

AB090609 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] Some of the latest arrivals have denied that almost all the Ghanaians affected by the quit order have evacuated from Nigeria. According to the deportees, there are still several thousands stranded in Nigeria. They pointed out that because of molestation, some of the Ghanaians have fled to nearby villages for safety. In another development, leaders of five West African countries have held a meeting in Togo, which sources said discussed the crisis caused by Nigeria's expulsion order. The talks held at Lama Kara, northern Togo, were attended by leaders of Togo, Ivory Coast, Niger, Upper Volta, and Benin. President Habre also attended. Officials gave no indication of what was discussed but informed sources said the impact of the expulsion order on the region was the main issue.

DEPORTEES MUST REGISTER FIREARMS WITHIN 7 DAYS

AB081355 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] All Ghanaians who returned home from Nigeria are requested to report to the nearest police station with any arms and ammunitions they brought with them for registration. They are requested to do so within 7 days without fail.

A statement by the police also requests all Ghanaian deportees who brought in private or commercial vehicles and motorcycles to report to the nearest licensing office to register them. They are expected to do this also within 7 days. Those who fail to comply with these instructions by next week Tuesday, 15th of this month, will be arrested, and prosecuted.

AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR EMERGENCY FOOD AID

AB081749 Accra Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Ghana has signed a loan agreement for food aid totaling over \$1 million with the World Food Program [WFP] under the Emergency Food Aid Program. The food items include 900 tons of rice, (7110) tons of milk, and 90 tons of oil. The UN Development Program resident coordinator, Mr (Mubanda), signed for the WFP, while Mrs Ofusa Amah of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning initialled on behalf of the government.

PNDC SECRETARIES ACCEPT CIVIL SERVICE CHANGES

AB081344 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] secretaries have accepted in principle the recommendations of the George (Saki) committee charged with restructuring the civil and public services. The proposals now go to the PNDC for approval. Under the proposals, all ministries are to have ministerial advisory boards to advise their respective secretaries on policy and administrative matters. According to a release issued in Accra, the advisory boards should be set up in pursuance of the government's policy of establishing a new democracy to ensure popular participation of the people in the process of government. The advisory boards will have the secretaries of the ministries as chairman. Provision is also made for the appointment of under secretaries who will be PNDC appointees. The aim of this decision is to strengthen the political and ideological direction within the ministries.

On the role of progressive organizations in the revolution, the meeting established a three-man committee to map out a strategy to strengthen the revolutionary development of the country. The committee is expected to submit its report to the next meeting of the secretaries.

On the mass media, the secretaries agreed on the crucial role of the press in the mobilization of the people for the revolutionary process. They especially mentioned the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, which is gradually collapsing as a result of years of neglect. The meeting, therefore, charged the Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning and Information to arrange an emergency import program to rehabilitate the media houses. The meeting deplored the fact that vehicles imported into the country have not been regulated. This, they said, is drain on the country's resources. They agreed that vehicle standardization must be linked with technology, transfer of vehicles, and spare parts manufacture in the country. It will also consider the interchangeability of components and a back-up of financial assistance to the country's transport system before a vehicle will be standardized.

NIGERIAKANO AUTHORITIES ARREST OVER 100 ILLEGAL ALIENS

AB081603 Lagos NAN in English 1552 GMT 8 Feb 83

[By Herbert Okpil]

[Text] Kano, Feb 8 (NAN) -- The Kano Immigration Department have arrested more than one hundred illegal aliens who refused to comply with the Federal Government quit order according to a NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent in Kano.

The state assistant director of immigration, Alhaji Abdulkadir Aliyu, told NAN that some of the arrested aliens have been deported.

He said those arrested were mainly from Ghana, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger Republic, adding that the deportation exercise was still continuing. The assistant director told NAN that none of the arrested aliens would be prosecuted. Alhaji Abdulkadir said that so far about 1,545 have left the country through the Maigatari control post while 292 left through the Kano International Airport before the expiration of the quit order.

One of the arrested aliens, Mr Philip Atinyo, from Benin Republic told NAN that he came into the country in 1976. Another alien, Malam Garuba Adamu Zakari who claimed to be a Nigerian, said that his parents have been living in Ghana. He said he left the parents in 1977 at Ghana to settle in Zaria adding that "I do not feel the illegal aliens should be asked to leave Nigeria, as other African countries might have to retaliate."

REGISTRATION OF LEGAL ALIENS TO BEGIN IN SOKOTO

AB090741 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] Registration of aliens residing legally in Sokoto state is to start next Monday, according to the assistant director of immigration, Alhaji Maiguji (bamalam). Most of the aliens are from neighboring African states. Meanwhile, a total of 188,000 aliens are said to have left the state since the quit order on illegal immigrants was announced last month.

COMMENTARY BLAMES OAU'S PROBLEMS ON WEST

AB081113 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] When the first OAU summit of 1982 failed in Tripoli last August, many people attributed the failure to the controversial admission of the SDAR into the organization. Again, the second failure of the summit last November was blamed on the cloud surrounding the representation of Chad in the organization. But a critical assessment of the true situation in the organization will show that it was the inability of African leaders to hold a successful summit in 1982. Historically, the Western influence in Africa dates back to the early days of colonization when the continent was Balkanized among several Western countries for the sole purpose of exploiting the rich economic resources of Africa. This perhaps lends support to the argument that the imperialistic upsurge and domination of Africa was essentially economic; this is because it is believed in many quarters that Europe's needs for colonies in Africa arose out of the desire to put some semblance of state power to institutionalize the siphoning of African wealth by Western imperialism.

The political domination which was planned to be extremely minimal in terms of cost was used as a smoke-screen to gloss over the essence of Western imperialism, which is to economically exploit the resources of Africa. But conscious of the need for the reordering of this system, the OAU has increasingly tried to lend its weight to the achievement of economic independence in Africa. But the imperialistic countries perceived this as a threat to their source of continued nourishment and developed status. Since there was the feeling that Africa should not be economically independent, they wanted to perpetuate their domination of the economy. Africa is a continent that is very rich in economic resources, although it is often described as underdeveloped. But today, many member nations of the OAU have more or less become amenable to Western influence and propaganda.

It is because of this that many sections of the world press describe the organization as a toothless bulldog. This is compounded by a fact that the Pan-African Union has apparently not demonstrated the will to live up to expectations. The Western press has, more than anything else, developed an aggressive resentment of Colonel al-Qadhafi of Libya becoming the chairman of OAU. Apart from this, the Western imperialists have unleashed the powerful forces of coercion against Africa.

The true position now is that any serious attempt to explain the current predicament of the OAU has to take into consideration the role played by the superpowers of the Western world who feel that it is better for the OAU to break than to hold a successful summit in Tripoli. For instance, when the United States heard of the choice of Al-Qadhafi in Kenya in 1981 to be the next OAU chairman, it openly condemned the decision. One therefore wonders why the United States should arrogate to itself the power of deciding for Africa who will be its leader since it is not part of Africa.

Right from the time the Kenya summit arose, the United States used all economic and diplomatic weapons at its disposal to persuade its most faithful allies in west Africa to find reasons to boycott any Tripoli summit. This is why the two attempts at the summit in Tripoli failed and thus the survival of the OAU has been dramatized to a negative dimension. Some [word indistinct] Western thinkers have now started to suggest a change of venue from Tripoli to Addis Ababa in order to hold a successful summit. This appears to be a misguided perception of the true cause of the stalemate in the organization. It is therefore necessary, at this juncture, to recall the Tanzanian foreign minister's warning that African countries are more to blame for the impasse in the OAU. Since it is now certain that external influence has been largely responsible for the discord in the organization, it is therefore timely to suggest measures for reviving the dwindling Pan-African Union once and for all. In the first place, African leaders have to come to the true grip of the situation and then reconsider their stand. And, on a final note, African leaders have to realize that the stalemate in the OAU has been directly or indirectly delaying the question of Namibia's independence.

MINISTER CLAIMS DIVISION HINDERS AFRICA

AB081323 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] The minister for information, Mallam Garuba Wushishi, has identified the arbitrary division of Africa into several tiny states by the imperialist powers as one of the most outstanding causes of low economic development of the continent. He was speaking at the first annual patrons' night of Unife [University of Ife] [word indistinct] in Lagos at the weekend. Mallam Wushishi pointed out that as a result of this, the tiny states suffered from a myriad of problems, including low per capita income, over-specialization in primary products and unfavorable terms of trade. The minister was, however, happy to note that Africans had taken steps to surmount all those problems. Mallam Wushishi suggested that the only way to rapidly develop the human, social and economic resources of Africa was to pursue vigorously intra-African cooperation in many fields of endeavor.

MOZAMBIQUEAGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ITALIAN COOPERATIVES

MB090633 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] Yesterday in Maputo, Mozambique, and the Italian League of Cooperatives signed an economic and technical cooperation protocol during the visit made by a delegation of that organization. The protocol includes six projects related to agriculture. Technical assistance which will have an immediate impact is expected for Maputo's greenbelt. Other aspects of the protocol deal with the development of small-scale commercial fishing, consumers' cooperatives, and it covers civil construction works on the Pequenos Libombos and (Curumana) dams as well as technical assistance for the Maputo harbor.

(Ornelio Prandini), president of the Italian League of Cooperatives, said that the biggest difficulty faced by his organization is the availability of funds for the materialization of many of its projects.

SOUTH AFRICATHREE ALLEGED GUERRILLAS KILLED IN NATAL

MB081318 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Three alleged guerrillas have been shot dead in northern Natal. A statement released by Police Commissioner Mike Geldenhuys says the three were shot dead in the Paulpietersburg District early this morning.

Geldenhuys said the South African police have received information on Sunday that three armed men were in the area. He said investigations had revealed that two of the men were known to police. A search was organized by members of the police task force with the help of helicopters of the South African Air Force. The three men were later cornered in a ravine and were shot and killed during a skirmish. Geldenhuys said the men were armed with automatic rifles, ammunition and handgrenades.

UN REQUEST FOR MASERU RAID REPARATIONS REJECTED

MB090555 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] South Africa has rejected the request of the Security Council of the United Nations that it should pay reparations for the damage and loss of life caused in the Defense Force raid on terrorist bases in Maseru last year.

In a letter to the secretary general of the United Nations, the minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, also rejects U.N. condemnation of the raid. He describes the Security Council resolution as fundamentally flawed and one-sided. Mr Botha says that the financial responsibility must be laid on the Lesotho Government, not only for the Maseru attack but also for damage carried out in South Africa as a result of the Lesotho policy of harboring terrorists.

Mr Botha says that South Africa exercises restraint and patient diplomacy in the pursuit of peace but reserves the right in the final resort to take effective measures to defend the lives and property of its citizens. Mr Botha says that South Africa wants nonaggression pacts with its neighbors and treaties that will bar the use of one another's territories for attacks.

OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN SCORES HOMELANDS BILL

MB090832 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 9 Feb 83 p 4

[Text] House of Assembly -- The addition of land to independent black states would not improve the economic and political viability of those states, Mr Ray Swart, chief opposition spokesman on the homelands, said yesterday. Opposing the second reading of the borders of particular states amendment bill, Mr Swart said the bill was a further manifestation of the government's fragmentation policy and its disregard for the rights and feelings of individuals. "What we are doing here is to unsettle thousands of people presently living under the jurisdiction of the Republican government and to hand over responsibility for them to our satellite independent states".

"And where we are not doing that, we are in pursuit of impractical ideology, paying out hundreds of thousands of rands -- taxpayer's money -- in the name of ideology by way of compensation," Mr Swart said.

The bill, which allows for addition of land to Ciskei, Venda and Bophutatswana, was another installment in the government's "flight from reality" and its attempt to escape from the real challenges of a plural society, said Mr Swart. Demands for more land, particularly by black leaders working within the "system" would continue as long as the ideology of separate development dominated government policy. Mr Swart said there was little evidence to show that existing independent states saw their present status as a final answer to their aspirations.

The recent meeting between the leaders of Transkei and KwaZulu to discuss the formation of a black federation must be seen as "dramatic" evidence that blacks did not see their present dispensation as being the end of their political aspirations.

OFFICIAL REPORT SHOWS DEFICIT SPENDING BY SADF

MB090920 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 8 Feb 83 p 1

[By Peter Sullivan, political correspondent]

[Text] South Africa's Defense Force has come under heavy fire in the latest report of the auditor general, which shows its account to be overdrawn by more than 184 million rands. The report also lists shortcomings in the way the Defence Force does its book-keeping but says this is being fixed up. However nearly 11 million rand is labelled "unauthorised expenditure" by the auditor general, Mr A.P. Ellis.

In his report on the financial year 1981/82, which Mr Ellis signed on December 15 last year, he discloses a special project was launched some years ago to get the Defence Force's accounting systems right. Called "Project Prime," it identified five major shortcomings and problems. The project found stores discrepancies of more than 87 million rand plus surplus stores of 8.8 million rands.

The shortcomings were:

- Inadequate logistical management as a result of deviations from and ignorance of basic management principles.
- Ineffective administration of stores coupled with a break-down in internal checking and control.
- Poor training.
- Non-availability of simplified regulations.
- Lack of adequate storage.

"Project Prime" began in November 1978 and ended in December 1980.

In his report on the 1981/82 year, Mr Ellis said the Defence Force spent 106.8 million rands more than it budgeted on personnel. This apparently was caused by an improvement in service conditions and a treasury decision that defence personnel assigned to the South-West Africa territory force and not budgeted for, be borne by defence. Administrative expenditure went 9.1 million rands over budget because of "increases in railway tariffs of goods and passenger services and air tariffs as well as unforeseen operation costs." Some 53,000 rands was written off during the year because of theft and a corporal in the chief paymaster's office was found guilty on 32 charges involving 42,119 rands.

The most startling thing was the department's account with the paymaster-general which was overdrawn by 184.4 million rands. This was made up of 140 million rands in respect of the Special Defence Account -- the secret military account which was used to launder funds during Info Scandal days -- and 44.2 million rands on the vote itself. Test audits were done on the quartermaster general's office and the South African medical services. Overpayments amounted to R279,335.

As the Special Defence Account is secret, Mr Ellis said the auditing had been done by a specially appointed person who had access to vouchers which covered all the expenditure.

CONSCRIPTION UNDER NEW DEFENSE ACT TO BEGIN

MB081215 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] The Defense Force is to begin to call up male citizens who have not yet undergone military training next month under the new defense act. The first group of members of the National and Controlled Reserve will commence a 5-day training camp in northern Natal in April. This first training camp will effect all white male citizens between the ages 17 and 35 years who are not presently members of the permanent forces, citizen force, or commandos and who reside permanently in the magisterial districts of Vryheid, Paulpietersburg, and Utrecht. They are required to complete and return questionnaires which are available at police stations before 22 February.

The Defense Force has emphasized that not all men who fill in forms will be called up and that the allotment will be determined by operational conditions. Questionnaires, on the grounds of which the registration officer will make his allocations, will be available at police stations from 14 February. Members of the police force, prison service, civil defense service, and people performing essential services will also be required to complete the questionnaires. People who will be out of town over that period are required to complete the questionnaire within 30 days of their return. They must obtain the questionnaires from northern Natal and command headquarters. The Defense Force has pointed out that failure to complete the questionnaires before the prescribed date is punishable in terms of the new defense act.

ZIMBABWE

DPRK FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

MB090718 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 9 Feb 83

[Text] The deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Comrade Kim Chae-pong has arrived in Harare for a 4-day official visit to Zimbabwe. Comrade Kim Chae is expected to meet the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, the president, Comrade Banana, and will also hold talks with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His talks will focus on relations between the two countries. The DPRK recently provided 6,000 tons of rice to Zimbabwe as a gift.